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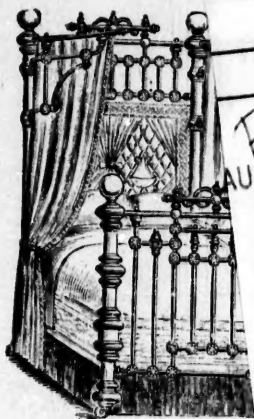
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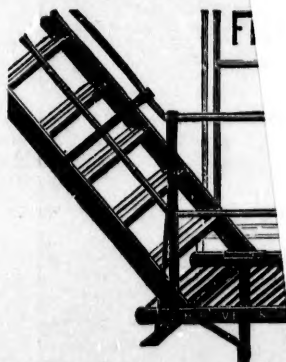
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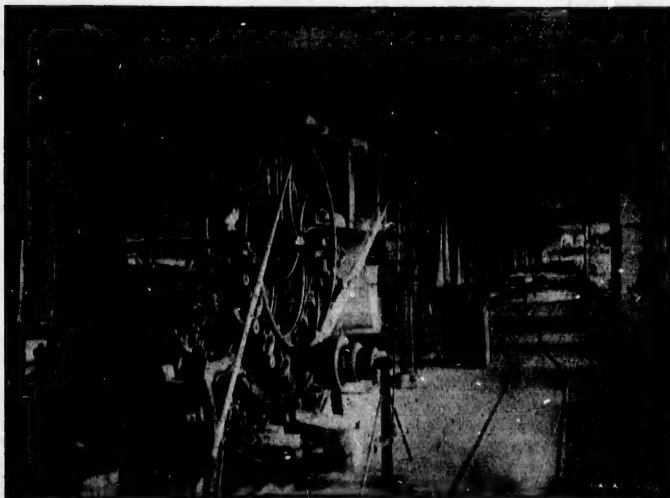


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SKETCHES



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PUBLISHED BY Mrs. S. ALLEN
1897

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PREFACE.

The necessity of a reliable and authentic work, neatly and artistically designed, containing biographical sketches of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family, has been so long felt and so generally acknowledged, that an apology for the issuing of this book is quite unnecessary.

In glancing down the roll of centuries, and more particularly at the pages of England's History, it may be stated without fear of contradiction that few sovereigns if any have been blessed with such a glorious, peaceful, prolonged and happy career as that of the present ruler of the Greatest Empire ever known in the History of the World, equally beloved and honored by her subjects through her Dominions upon which the Sun never sets.

It is therefore of the greatest importance that a suitable memorial of a superb character should be placed within the reach of all, to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the reign of Britain's Greatest Queen.

Such is the object in publishing this work, and neither time nor expense have been spared to make it attractive, interesting and commendable to the public at large, so that all true and loyal subjects of Her Majesty of this the Greatest Colony within the very extensive limits of the Empire of Great Britain and Ireland, may have something to hand down to their children that will teach them to be animated with that spirit of Loyalty to the Mother Country that actuated their Fathers in the Diamond Jubilee year of 1897.

The engravings have been made from the latest photographs, and may therefore be relied on as correct.

The greatest care has been manifested throughout in the material for the whole work, and is from the pen of one who has devoted much time in writing the joys and sorrows of our Beloved Queen.



MAYOR R. WILSON-SMITH

Was born in Ireland in 1852, where he received his early education, and came to Canada in 1878.

As one of the many representative Irishmen of this city he retains his patriotic love for the old land, while strenuously utilizing his energy and talents in promoting the interest and forwarding the progress of the country of his adoption.

Mayor Smith is a Life Governor of the Montreal General Hospital, and also the Hospital for the Insane at Verdun ; he was twice chosen by acclamation to represent the constituents of the St. Lawrence Ward at the municipal elections in 92-94 ; he was President of the Press Association for the Province of Quebec, also President of the Canada Accident Insurance Company, a Trustee of the Guardian Assurance Company, Director of the Montreal Safe Deposit Company, Director of the Lachine Rapids Company, besides being a Harbor Commissioner and School Commissioner, and he is also identified with other business institutions. As a proof that Mr. Smith is most highly esteemed by his fellow-citizens, he was unanimously chosen in 1896 to occupy the position of Chief Magistrate of the Metropolis of the Dominion, the highest gift at the disposal of the people.

It is unnecessary to enumerate the many kind and generous acts of his Worship since he became the occupant of the Civic Chair ; we will simply say that he is known by the masses to be the benefactor *par excellence* of the widow and orphan and a true and staunch friend of the working men. Montreal has no more solid-headed business man than our worthy and esteemed Mayor.



HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF ABERDEEN.

When Lord Aberdeen came to Canada in the fall of 1893, he was no stranger to the country in which he was destined to occupy the important position of Governor-General. He had during several previous years made visits to the Dominion, in which he had many friends. His Excellency is a grandson of the fourth Earl of Aberdeen, who was prime minister from 1852 to 1855. He was educated at Oxford and took the degrees of B. A. in 1871, and M. A. in 1877. The enthusiasm of his appointment to the position as Her Majesty's representative of Canada has not abated one whit since his arrival and to-day the sentiments which found vent then in hearty speeches of welcome is more fervent than ever for the qualifications which render Lord Aberdeen so fit a recipient of the Vice-Regal honors.



HER EXCELLENCY THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

Lady Aberdeen is a daughter of Sir Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, first Lord Tweedmouth. She is a noble woman, sharing in the fame which the career of her illustrious husband has won for his ancient name. The residence of their Excellencies in Canada has been attended throughout with benefit to the best interests of the country. Her personal qualities, independent of her high rank, are such as to have earned for her an unusual measure of love and respect ; and to-day the method her Excellency has adopted to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, by founding the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada ; is something that only a woman of Her "Excellency's" unsparing exercise of Christian profession and principle could accomplish, and although the work is barely started nevertheless it has taken root from the first moment Her Excellency advised its adoption. A memorial like that will be sweet to a woman like Queen Victoria. Such a scheme could not but be a success with such a patron as our Governor-General, and as President the Countess of Aberdeen.

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THE LIFE AND REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

THE LITTLE MAYFLOWER.

I THINK if I could choose in what month of the year I should like to have my birthday, it would be the merry month of May, when the trees are fresh and green, when the hedges are white with hawthorn, when the blackbirds and thrushes are singing, and everything looks happy and gay.

It was the 24th of May, in the year 1819, that the little girl of whom I am going to write was born. But I do not think any one guessed at that time how much she would be loved, nor how many would keep her birthday in years to come.

She was born in the solemn old palace of Kensington. Her Father and Mother were the Duke and Duchess of Kent, and her Grandfather was the good old King George the Third.

Yet although she was a king's grand-daughter, very few people thought that the little Princess Victoria would ever be the Queen of England. She had two uncles, who were both older than her father, and both of whom would have the right to the crown before him, and they might have



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MONTREAL.

children of their own, who would, of course, succeed them ; so that it did not seem at all likely that the little ' Mayflower,' as her Father and Mother called her, would ever sit upon her Grandfather's throne.

Her father wished her to be called Elizabeth, because it was a favorite name among English people ; but her uncle, the Prince Regent, insisted that she should be called Alexandrina, after the Emperor of Russia. Victoria, her mother's name, was added as an afterthought, but " Little Drina " was her name through all her early years.

So the Princess came to be called Alexandrina Victoria. Greville says that George IV. wished her to be christened Georgiana. It is interesting to note that the Princess Victoria was successfully vaccinated in the following August, and that she was the first member of the royal family of Britain who received the benefit of Jenner's remarkable discovery.

There seemed little probability that the child thus ushered into the world would ever become Queen of England. The Duke of Kent was the fourth son of George III. ; but a series of unexpected changes soon brought his daughter near the throne. Upon the death of the deeply lamented Princess

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Charlotte, the only child of George IV., the Duke of York had become heir-presumptive to the crown. His Royal Highness had no children, however, and the Duke of Clarence, the third son of George III., came next in succession. The Duke of Clarence had married, and his wife, the Princess Adelaide, bore him a daughter, who, if she had lived, would in the natural order of things, have become Queen. But this child died in infancy, leaving the Princess Victoria the only scion of the royal stock.

A NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

WHEN the little Princess was about six months old she was taken by her Mother to a pretty place near Sidmouth in Devonshire, and whilst they were there the poor baby was very nearly killed. Her nurse was carrying her about the nursery, when suddenly she was startled by the sound of a gun, and the shot came whizzing in at the nursery window, and passed just over the head of the dear little Princess.

Who had fired the gun? A cruel, mischievous boy, who was amusing himself by shooting sparrows near the house and who little guessed the mischief he had so nearly done. It would have been a sad day for the Duke and Duchess of Kent if their little birdie had been shot. And it would have been a day of terrible loss for England. But God saved us from that loss, and watched over the fair little head, and the child was unhurt, and knew nothing of her danger.

Nor did she know anything of the heavy, crushing sorrow

which came to her poor Mother very soon after this ; for the baby was on'y nine months old, only just beginning to laugh and crow and play, when her father, the good Duke of Kent, died. He was very fond of his little girl, and very proud of her too, and although it seemed so unlikely to every one else, he always thought that she would some day sit on her Grandfather's throne. He would hold her up in his arms and say to his friends, " Look at her well ; she will yet be Queen of England ! "

The Duke could never see his little pet without stopping to play with her, to carry her about the room, or to dance her up and down in his arms.

One day he had been walking in the grounds, when a heavy shower of rain came on, and he hurried in to change his wet clothes. But on his way to his room the Duke saw his dear little girl, and he could not help stopping to have a game of play with her ; he loved so much to hear her merry laugh, and to watch her pretty winning ways.

But the Duke stayed too long, for a chill struck him from his damp cloths ; he was taken very ill, and soon—very soon afterwards, little Princess Victoria was fatherless. But she had a good loving Mother, who took every care of her little girl, and did all in her power to train her to be a useful and godly woman.

Very lonely must the poor Duchess of Kent have felt, for she was almost a stranger in England ; but she and her husband had often talked over the future of their little girl, and she knew how he wished her to be brought up.

PLAY AND LESSONS.

The Princess was a happy, merry child. There was plenty of room for her to run about in that great old palace of Kensington, and many a fine game of play she had, as she danced up and down the long corridors, and ran backwards and forwards in the stately rooms.

Nor was all the fun indoors. She had many a ride in Kensington Gardens on her donkey, which was decked out in blue ribbons, and made very smart for her to ride. Her Mother often walked beside her, and talked to her as she rode along, and if anyone bowed to the dear little Princess, she would nod to them, and say "Good morning" so prettily and brightly that no one who saw her could help loving her.

The Princess Victoria was a busy little maiden, getting up early in the morning to be ready for breakfast at eight o'clock—sitting at a small round table beside her Mother, to eat her bread and milk and fruit,—going out with her sister Princess Feodore for an early walk in the Park,—coming in for her lessons with her Mother,—working away for two busy hours

WHATEVER is beautiful deserves to be admired, and that is why

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at reading, writing, and sums, then hurrying out when lessons were over to look after the flowers in her own little garden under the Palace windows.

In describing the infancy of the Princess I would say she was a beautiful child, with a cherubic form of features, clustered round by glossy fair ringlets. Her complexion was remarkably transparent, with a soft but often heightening tinge of the sweet blush-rose upon her cheeks, that imparted a peculiar brilliancy to her clear blue eyes. Whenever she met any strangers in her usual paths she always seemed, by the quickness of her glance, to inquire who and what they were? The intelligence of her countenance was extraordinary at her very early age; but might easily be accounted for on perceiving the extraordinary intelligence of her mind.

I remember a little incident that may illustrate this. One Sunday, at Esher Church, when the Princess Victoria might be about six years old, my attention was particularly attracted to the Claremont pew, in which she and the Duchess of Kent and her royal uncle (then the widowed Prince Leopold) sat. It occupies a colonnaded recess, elevated a little, in the interior south wall of the church. Parallel to it runs a small gallery of pews, from one of which (my mother's) being directly opposite to the royal seat, I could see all that passed. I should not voluntarily have so employed myself at church, but I had seen a wasp skimming backwards and forwards over the head and before the unveiled summer bonnet of the little Princess; and I could not forbear watching the dangerous insect, fearing it might sting her face.

But time wore on, with its succession of months (we

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hardly may count a march by years to youth only yet advancing to its teens), and the young Princess gradually found a closer attention to her graver pursuits grow upon her. She read general history, under the guidance of one of England's best scholars in that essential branch of education—and more especially she “fixed the eyes of her mind” on the ancient annals of her own future dominions. Not being satisfied with our celebrated historians, Hume, Rapin, and others of modern date, she sought after the original authorities; and those venerable penmen in *black-letter* were constrained to give up their lore (generally hidden lore from woman's eye) to the youthful heiress of their almost worshipped themes—our Saxon Alfred, our Norman Henries and Edwards. Succeeding chroniclers also yielded to her the same genuine tribute, till they told of the happily united royal streams in the bosoms of the Stuart and the Brunswick race—herself a nobly conscious daughter of both. And now that she has become the bride of a Prince of the most revered Saxon line—of the glorious posterity of John Frederick, Elector of Saxony, the friend of Luther and Melancthon, and the defender till death of the restored purity of the Christian Church—let us hail the auspicious sign as a pledge from Heaven that the present constitution of this realm, bequeathed by Alfred, and the Christian Church, established in simplicity and truth amongst us, most especially by the Brunswick race, are to remain in our land firm as the rock in which its soil is bedded.

From an account written by one of those who saw her in childhood I must quote the following paragraph: “Passing accidentally through Kensington Gardens a few days since, I observed at some distance a party, consisting of several ladies

a young child, and two men-servants, having in charge a donkey gaily caparisoned with blue ribbons, and accoutred for the use of the infant. The appearance of the party, and the general attention they attracted, led me to suspect they might be the royal inhabitants of the Palace. I soon learned that my conjectures were well founded, and that her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent was in maternal attendance, as is her daily custom, upon her august and interesting daughter in the enjoyment of her healthful exercise. On approaching the royal party, the infant Princess, observing my respectful recognition, nodded, and wished me a 'good morning' with much liveliness, as she skipped along between her mother and her sister, the Princess Feodore, holding a hand of each. Having passed on some paces, I stood a moment to observe the actions of the child, and was pleased to see that the notice, with which she honored me was extended in a greater or less degree to almost every person she met. Her Royal Highness is remarkably beautiful, and her gay and animated countenance bespeaks perfect health and good temper. Her complexion is excessively fair, her eyes large and expressive, and her cheeks blooming. She bears a striking resemblance to her late royal father, and indeed to every member of our reigning family."

Considering the principles in which she was reared, there was no wonder that the princess developed from a dutiful daughter into a loving wife, a vigilant mother, a kind mistress, a generous benefactor and an exemplary Christian. She had been schooled in habits of sobriety and religion, and the sentiments of obedience and self-control, which were from the first impressed upon her, bore their legitimate fruit in after-life.

The Princess was an excellent singer, and had for her master the famous Lablache. She was also a good dancer, and excelled in archery. But of all out-door exercises she was most passionately fond of that of riding. She was much devoted to the animals that bore her, from a favorite donkey presented to her by her uncle, the Duke of York, to the pony which carried her in her latest Highland excursions.

A Yorkshire lady has related an anecdote of the youthful days of the Princess. She went with the Duchess on a visit to Earl Fitzwilliam, at Wentworth House, and while there, found great delight in running about alone in the gardens and shrubberies. She was thus disporting herself one wet morning, when the old gardener—unaware of the little visitor's name and rank—saw her about to descend a treacherous piece of ground from the terrace, and called out, "Be careful, miss, it's slape!"—this being a Yorkshire word for slippery. The Princess turned and asked, "What's slape?" and immediately received a practical answer, for her feet flew from under her, and she fell down. As the old gardener carefully lifted her up he remarked, "*That's* slape, miss." Another account states that it was Earl Fitzwilliam himself who called out, "Now your Royal Highness has an explanation of the term 'slape' both theoretically and practically." "Yes, my Lord," the Princess replied, "I think I have. I shall never forget the word 'slape.'"

The gaieties of Court life were first brought within the actual apprehension of the future Queen in 1828, when she was in her tenth year. At a Drawing Room held during the season the Princess had an opportunity of observing how a

queen but little older than herself was received with royal honors at the Court of George IV. This young Sovereign was Donna Maria da Gloria, Queen of Portugal. The two children had previously exchanged some formal State visits, but official etiquette did not admit of a close intimacy. The first occasion on which the Princess Victoria danced in public was at a juvenile ball given by the King to Donna Maria. The young queen presented an appearance of great splendor, for her dress blazed with all the jewels of the Portuguese crown; she was surrounded by her Court, and was led to the ballroom by the hand of the King himself. Little Victoria was dazzled by so much magnificence; but, as a chronicler of the scene remarks, "the elegant simplicity of the attire and manners of the British heiress formed a strong contrast to the glare and glitter around the precocious queen. These royal young ladies danced in the same quadrille, and though the performance of Donna Maria was greatly admired, all persons of refined taste gave the preference to the modest graces of the English-bred Princess." The Princess Victoria had for partners at her first ball Lord Fitzalan, heir to the Dukedom of Norfolk, Prince William of Saxe-Weimar, the young Prince Esterhazy, and the sons of Lords De-la-Warr and Jersey.



A PRESENT OF A GOLDEN KEY.

YOU have heard of the kind old Jew, Sir Moses Montefiore, who lived to be more than a hundred years old, and who did so much in his long life for the comfort and happiness of his nation.

Sir Moses lived at Ramsgate, and he had a beautiful garden there, full of flowers, and lovely trees, and cool, quiet, shady walks. The Princess Victoria had often peeped into Sir Moses' lovely grounds, and perhaps had wished sometimes that she could go inside, and wander quietly about amongst the trees and flowers, and get for a time away from the hot sands, and the noisy bands of music, and the endless crowds of people.

One day a present arrived for the Princess from Sir Moses Montefiore. It was a little golden key, which would unlock a small private gate in his grounds, and now, whenever Princess Victoria wished to be quiet, she could use her pretty little key, and could escape from all the noise and glare of the sands into the quiet shade of the beautiful pleasure grounds.

But there was no place to which the Princess liked to go better than to the Isle of Wight. She used to stay at Norris Castle with her Mother, and many a pleasant drive they had together to all the lovely spots in the beautiful island.

The Princess never forgot those happy days in the Isle of Wight, and many years after this, when she was Queen of England, she had a seaside Palace built for her in the beauti-

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MONTREAL.

ful island. Osborne House stands looking over the sea, with lovely terraces reaching down to the shore, covered with bright flower-gardens, fountains, and beautiful statues.*

THE PRINCESS'S RESOLVE—"I WILL BE GOOD."

ONE after another, all those who had come between the Princess Victoria and the throne of England had passed away, and every one in Great Britain now knew that the fair little girl of twelve years old would one day have a right to the golden crown (which you can see if you go to the Tower of London), and would sit in the old chair in which all the kings and queens, since the time of Edward the Confessor, have sat on their Coronation Day.

Every one knew this, except the Princess herself. The Duchess had kept her secret well,—and no one had yet told the Princess what was before her. Her Mother wished her to grow up a simple, unaffected girl, and thought it was better that she should not know what a high position she was in, until after her twelfth birthday. Then she felt that the time had come when her little daughter ought to know what her future was to be. So she placed in her English History book a genealogical table, in which the descent of the kings and queens of England was traced down from William the

*In 1832 the Duchess of Kent took her daughter, the Princess Victoria, on a tour through the counties bordering on Wales. Amongst other places visited on their homeward journey was a cotton factory at Belper, where Mr. Strutt explained the process of cotton spinning. The poor workers appear to have been very pleased to catch a glimpse of their future sovereign.

Conqueror to the present time, and in which *her* name was placed as the next heir to the throne.

The next time the Princess Victoria came to her lessons, she noticed that a paper, which she had never seen before, had been fastened in her English History.

"What is this?" she said to her governess; "I never saw it before."

"It was not thought necessary that you should," said the lady.

Then the Princess read the list of names quietly to herself for a few minutes, and looking up at the end she said,—

"I see I am nearer the Throne than I thought I was." Then, putting her little hand in that of her governess, she said I *will* be good; I know now why you want me so much to learn my lessons and to take pains with my Latin. I learned it before because you wished it, but I understand all better now; I will be good."

God heard the dear child's promise that day, and by His grace she has kept it, and has truly won for herself the name by which we all love to call her, "Good Queen Victoria."

Meanwhile, away from the Court, the Princess continued her studies. In addition to the tuition she received from Dr. Davys and the Baroness Lehzen, she was taught music by W. J. B. Sale, first engaged at the special request of George IV.; and dancing by Madame Bourdin. In writing and arithmetic she was instructed by Mr. Steward, the writing-master at Westminster School, and under his guidance she acquired that free and bold hand manifested by her autograph

signature. She learnt with facility all that was taught her, and exhibited a special talent in the acquisition of living languages. In the Isle of Wight and at Claremont she also received daily instruction from the Duchess; and the future Queen gave good promise in every way both as to talent and disposition. In the summer and autumn of 1832 the Duchess of Kent took her daughter upon a tour through many of the English counties, and also through the Welsh principality. The main objects of this royal progress were of an intellectual character. Coventry, Shrewsbury, Powis Castle Wynnstay, and Beaumaris were visited in turn, and all matters of historical, statistical, or industrial interest were closely examined. The royal pair took up their residence for some time in the Isle of Anglesey, and the Princess visited the Eisteddfod at Beaumaris, investing the musical victors with the prizes awarded for their performances.

After the return to Kensington Palace the Princess suffered from a severe attack of illness. For some time preceding her fifteenth birthday she looked pale and languid, and the violent changes of temperature subjected her to the only serious indisposition she had hitherto experienced. She soon recovered her health, however, and was able to accompany King William and Queen Adelaide to the Grand Musical Festival in Westminster Abbey, when she was greeted with enthusiasm and affection by the loyal crowds which had assembled on the occasion.



“WE COME ON BUSINESS OF STATE TO THE
QUEEN.”

THE years passed away, and when the Princess Victoria was eighteen her uncle, King William the Fourth, died, in old Castle of Windsor. It was very early in the morning, only just after daybreak on June 20th, 1837, that his soul passed away. Immediately afterwards, two gentlemen might have been seen setting off from Windsor, and driving along the London road as fast as horses could carry them.

Who were they? They were the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chamberlain, and they were hurrying to Kensington Palace to tell the Princess Victoria that she was the Queen of England!

It was still early when they reached London, and the birds were singing their morning songs in the trees of the Park, as they passed through it to Kensington Palace. When they arrived there all was very still; there was not a sound to be heard, for everyone in the great Palace was asleep. They knocked, they rang, they thumped at the gate, and at last they managed to wake the porter, and he let them in.

Then they waited in the court-yard of the Palace, whilst the porter went to wake one of the servants. This servant showed them into one of the lower rooms, and again they had to wait. It seemed as if every one had forgotten them, and at last they grew impatient and rang the bell. When the servant appeared, they desired him to tell the maid of the Prin-

cess Victoria to inform her mistress that they wished to see her.

Again nobody came, so once more they rang the bell, and this time the maid herself came, and said the Princess was in such a sweet sleep that she did not like to disturb her.

Then they said, "We are come on business of State to *the Queen* and even her sleep must give way to that."

The secret was out. The Princess Victoria had become the Queen of England. The maid ran off in great haste to do as she was told, and when once the young Queen heard the news, she did not keep the Archbishop and the Chamberlain waiting a moment. She jumped out of bed, threw a shawl round her shoulders, and came down in her night dress, her hair falling over her shoulders, her feet in slippers, and tears in her eyes,

As soon as they had told their errand, the young Queen turned to the Archbishop of Canterbury and said to him: "I beg your Grace to pray for me." The three knelt down together, and prayed that grace and strength might be given to her for all that was before her. That was how our dear Queen began her reign. It is no wonder then that it has been such a happy one; it is no wonder that she has been so blessed, and has been made such a blessing to her people.

Oh! if we would only go to God in all our joys and sorrows, and would ask Him to help us whenever we feel that we have anything difficult to do, how much happier we should be.

Then the young Queen sat down to write a letter to the poor widowed Queen, who had just lost her husband. It

was a loving, sympathising letter, and she addressed it: "To Her Majesty the Queen." Some one who was present reminded her that she herself was the Queen now, and that Queen Adelaide was only the "Queen Dowager." "I know that," she said; "but I will not be the first to remind her of it."

Then the Archbishop and the Camberlain left, and she went upstairs to dress, and to talk with her Mother of all that was before her. She had not much time for quiet thought, for at nine o'clock she was sent for again, the Prime Minister had come to see her; and at eleven all the great men of England came, to be present at the young Queen's first council. One by one they all came up to her and kissed her hand, and promised to be faithful to her.

THE QUEEN'S FIRST COUNCIL.

Then the Queen took her seat, and held her first council. So sweet and calm she looked, as she sat at one end of the long table, that words cannot describe how much all the lords and gentlemen present admired their young Queen, nor how loudly they spoke in her praise, when they came out from the Council chamber.

It was on the occasion of the Proclamation of the Queen at St. James's Palace, that Mrs. Browning wrote the touching poem which thus concludes:

God bless thee, weeping Queen,
With blessings more divine;
And fill with better love than earth
That tender heart of thine,

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That when the thrones of earth shall be
As low as graves brought down,
A pierced hand may give to thee
The crown which angels shout to see :
Thou wilt not weep
To wear that heavenly crown.

THE CORONATION.

QUEEN Victoria had reigned a year and eight days before her Coronation took place. For months beforehand all England had been getting ready for it. A new crown had to be made, for the old crown which her uncles had worn was too heavy and too large for her. The Queen's new crown is also to be seen in the Regalia at the Tower. It was so precious and costly, that the jewels in it cost £113,000. Then songs and hymns were made to be sung on the happy day, and medals were struck for the people of England to wear, and all kinds of preparations were made, throughout the country, for holiday making and rejoicing, in honor of the young Queen's Coronation.

At last the day came, and people were astir as soon as it was light, and between six and seven the streets of London were filled with strings of carriages, and with crowds of eager people. Every one was full of excitement and joy, and soon every one was waiting for the Queen.

As the clocks of the great City struck ten, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and then the crowds of waiting people knew that the Queen had left Buckingham Palace, and had started for Westminster Abbey, where she was to be crowned.

She was in the great state carriage, which shone like gold in the sunshine, and which was drawn by eight cream-colored horses, with long, white flowing manes and tails.

Oh what shouting and cheering there was, as she drove along! Every window, every balcony, every doorstep, every roof, every chimney was covered with people. They waved their handkerchiefs, they threw down flowers, they cried aloud, "God save Queen Victoria!"

At length she reached Westminster Abbey, which was crowded with noblemen, and ladies in most brilliant dresses and sparkling with jewels.

First of all there was an anthem sung: "Long live Queen Victoria," and as they sang, the young Queen knelt down and prayed.

Then the Archbishop in a loud voice said, "I here present unto you Queen Victoria, the undoubted Queen of this realm; you who are here present, are you willing to do homage to her as your Queen?"

Then all the thousand people in the Abbey shouted, "God save the Queen!" and the trumpeters dressed in scarlet blew their trumpets, and the drummers beat their drums, and the fair young girl who stood in the midst of them all looked round upon her subjects, and felt, as she had never felt before, that she was indeed Queen of England.

Then came a service and a sermon, and after this Her Majesty laid her hand on the great Bible, and promised that she, for her part, would be faithful to her duties as Queen. After this she sat down in the old chair, in which thirty-three

kings and four queens had sat before her, and under which was placed a curious old stone, on which the kings of Scotland, for many hundred years, had sat when they were crowned.

A cloth of gold was then held over the Queen's head, and she was anointed with oil on her forehead and hands. And then came the sight for which all those hundreds of people had waited patiently for several hours. The Archbishop came forward, and reverently placed the crown of England on the young Queen's head.

It was a wonderfully beautiful sight, for, at the same moment, every peer and every peeress in that vast assembly put on his or her coronet, and the sunshine which streamed into the old Abbey was flashed back from thousands of precious gems, until the whole cathedral, from one end to the other, sparkled like the starry sky on a bright frosty night.

Then the Queen, with her crown on her head, took her seat in another chair, called the Chair of Homage, and all the lords of the land came up to her to do their homage. One by one they knelt down, took off their coronets, touched the Queen's crown with them, and then kissed her little white hand. One aged nobleman, Lord Rolle, in trying to lift his coronet with his trembling hands to the Queen's crown, lost his balance, and slipped down the two lower steps of the throne.

The Queen was exceedingly popular with all classes. At one time, when some foolish person talked of deposing "the all but infant Queen" and putting the Duke of Cumberland in her place, O'Connell said : " If necessary, I can get 500,000 brave Irishmen to defend the life, the honor, and the person

of the beloved young lady by whom England's throne is now filled." Charles Dickens also was but the representative of many others who were filled with enthusiasm over the grace and beauty of the young Sovereign. Occasionally the devotion of her admirers was somewhat embarrassing. This was especially so in the case of a gentleman who, for some time before the Queen left Kensington Palace, labored under the delusion that he was one day destined to marry her Majesty. His attentions became very annoying, and on one occasion he actually succeeded in writing his name in the visiting-book, only to be erased, however, as soon as the autograph was discovered. Although a gentleman in means, he would actively assist the workmen in weeding the piece of water in Kensington Gardens, in the hope of obtaining a sight of her Majesty ; and every evening he would wait in his phaeton in the Uxbridge Road until the Queen's carriage appeared in sight, when he would follow it in whatever direction it might proceed. Once the Duchess directed a page to request the pertinacious one to drive off, but he refused. When the Queen left Kensington for Buckingham Palace he was noticed as being most vociferous in his demonstrations of loyalty. As soon as her Majesty entered her carriage, he rushed out of the courtyard, and, running at full speed down the avenue, and jumping into his phaeton, preceded the royal *cortège* to the palace at Pimlico. It was some time before he discovered that he had misread his destiny.





H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.

BETROTHAL.

ON the 26th of August, 1819—the same year which witnessed the birth of the Queen—there was born to the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld a son, who was afterwards named Albert. The birth took place at the Rosenau, the summer residence of the Duke, about four miles from Coburg. This child, who was destined to be closely allied with England, was lineally descended from those great Saxon princes “whose names are immortalized in European history by the stand they made in defence of their country’s liberties against the encroaching power of the German emperors, as well as by the leading part they took in the Reformation.”

Albert was brought up with his elder brother Ernest, and the two boys would seem to have vied with each other in their winning ways and affectionate disposition. When the younger was but five years old the Duke and Duchess separated in consequence of an unhappy estrangement, and a divorce followed, and the little brothers never saw their mother again. But their two grandmothers were passionately attached to them, and have left many interesting descriptions of the boys. Albert was a delicate, nervous child, with a beautiful countenance—almost too much of a seraph, it was thought, for this mundane sphere; but by the time he was six years old he showed that he was pretty much like other boys, and in a *naïve* little diary which he kept there occur these two somewhat startling items:—“9th April. I got up well and happy; afterwards I had a fight with my brother.”

"10th April. I had another fight with my brother : that was not right."

In his home at Erenburg, in the spring of 1839, Prince Albert was agreeably surprised, on entering his apartments after a long journey, to receive a smiling welcome from the features of his fair cousin, the young Queen of England. It appears that she had sent her portrait, executed by Chalon, for his acceptance, and it was privately placed, by her desire, so that it should be the first object to meet his view on his return.

The two brothers, Ernest and Albert, again visited England in the ensuing October, this being the third occasion on which they had done so. They reached Buckingham Palace on the 10th, and were conveyed thence in the royal carriages to Windsor Castle. The Queen appears to have been still more impressed than before with her younger cousin, and in writing to her uncle Leopold she remarked : "Albert's beauty is most striking, and he is most amiable and unaffected ; in short, very fascinating." Then, with maidenly reserve, as though she had been too communicative, she hastened to

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add : "The young men are *both* amiable, and delightful companions, and I am glad to have them here."

The manner of life at Windsor during the stay of the Princes is thus described : "The Queen breakfasted at this time in her own room ; they afterwards paid her a visit there ; and at two o'clock had luncheon with her and the Duchess of Kent. In the afternoon they all rode—the Queen and the Duchess and the two Princes, with Lord Melbourne and most of the ladies and gentlemen in attendance, forming a large cavalcade."

The engagement was made on the 15th of October. Prince Albert had been out hunting with his brother, and returned to the Castle about noon. Half an hour afterwards he received a summons from the Queen, and went to her room, finding her alone. After a few minutes' conversation on other subjects, the Queen told him why she had sent for him, and the whole story of mutual love was once more quickly told. "Though as Queen," observes one writer, she offered the Prince her coveted hand—that hand which had held the sceptre of sceptres, and which princes and peers and the representatives of the highest powers on earth had kissed in homage—it was only as a poor little woman's weak hand, which needed to be upheld and guided in good works by a stronger, firmer hand : and her head, when she laid it on her chosen husband's shoulder, had not the feel of the crown on it. Indeed, she seems to have felt that his love was her real coronation, his faith her consecration."

She was not long in communicating the joyful news to her dear friend, Baron Stockmar. It came with some little surprise upon him, for, shortly before, the Queen had assured

him that she did not intend to change her unmarried state for a long period. And now she wrote: "I do feel so guilty I know not how to begin my letter; but I think the news it will contain will be sufficient to ensure your forgiveness. Albert has completely won my heart, and all was settled between us this morning. I feel certain he will make me happy. I wish I could feel as certain of my making him happy."

The King of the Belgians took a special interest in the engagement. Before he was aware of its conclusion he had written to the Queen as follows concerning his nephews: "I am sure you will like them the more the longer you see them. They are young men of merit, and without that puppy-like affectation which is so often found with young gentlemen of rank; and though remarkably well-informed, they are very free from pedantry. Albert is a very agreeable companion. His manners are so quiet and harmonious that one likes to have him near one's self. I always found him so when I had him with me, and I think his travels have still further improved him. He is full of talent and fun, and draws cleverly." Then comes a very direct hint in the King's letter: "I trust they will enliven your *sejour* in the old castle, and may Albert be able to strew roses without thorns in the pathway of life of our good Victoria. He is well qualified to do so."

A letter from the Queen to the King crossed this one. "My dearest uncle," she wrote, "this letter will I am sure give you pleasure, for you have always shown and taken so warm an interest in all that concerns me. My mind is quite made up, and I told Albert this morning of it. The warm affection he showed me at learning this gave me great pleasure

He seems perfection, and I think I have the prospect of very great happiness before me. I love him more than I can say, and shall do everything in my power to render this sacrifice (for such in my opinion it is) as small as I can."

The Princes Ernest and Albert remained for a month at Windsor, and we hear of a beautiful emerald serpent ring which the latter presented to his ladylove. In the bracing November weather the engaged couple were present at a review, in the Home Park, of the battalion of the Rifle Brigade quartered at Windsor. Her Majesty has thus described this interesting scene: "At ten minutes to twelve I set off in my Windsor uniform and cap, on my old charger, 'Leopold,' with my beloved Albert, looking so handsome in his uniform, on my right, and Sir John Macdonald, the Adjutant-General, on my left, Colonel Grey and Colonel Wemyss preceding me, a guard of honor, my other gentlemen, my cousin's gentlemen, Lady Caroline Barrington, &c., for the ground. A horrid day: cold, dreadfully blowy, and, in addition, raining hard when we had been out a few minutes. It, however, ceased when we came to the ground. I rode alone down the ranks, and then took my place as usual, with dearest Albert on my right, and Sir John Macdonald on my left, and saw the troops march past. They afterwards manœuvred. The Rifles looked beautiful. It was piercingly cold, and I had my cape on, which dearest Albert settled comfortably for me. He was so cold, being *en grande tenue*, with high boots. We cantered home again, and went in to show ourselves to poor Ernest, who had seen all from a window."

The Princes returned to the Continent on the 14th of November.

The royal marriage was fixed for the 10th of February, and on the afternoon of the 8th Prince Albert arrived at Buckingham Palace, accompanied by his father and elder brother. The Prince brought as a wedding gift to his bride a beautiful sapphire and diamond brooch ; and her Majesty in return presented the Prince with the Star and Badge of the Garter, and the Garter itself, set in diamonds. The Queen had been exceedingly gratified by the high tributes paid to the personal character of Prince Albert by men of all parties. Sir Robert Peel, the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, had especially spoken in generous terms, and felicitated the Sovereign and the country upon the forthcoming auspicious union.

The question of the precedence of Prince Albert, however, caused a great deal of difficulty, and much annoyance to the Queen. Greville has told the inner and secret history of the struggle. Writing in his diary under the date of February 4th, he says : " On Friday the Cabinet agreed to give up the precedence over the Prince of Wales ; but to a question of Brougham's the Lord Chancellor said he had no other concession to offer. It was then agreed that the discussion should be taken on Monday. On Saturday, Clarendon spoke to Melbourne himself, and urged him to consider seriously the inconvenience of a battle on this point, and prevailed upon him to go to the Duke of Wellington and talk it over with him. He wrote to the Duke, who immediately agreed to receive him. Then he went to Apsley House, and they had an hour's conversation."

Greville looked up the authorities and the ancient practice on the subject. He came to the conclusion that the

Queen had power to grant the Prince precedence everywhere but in Parliament and in Council, and on the whole he considered that *her husband* ought to have precedence. He accordingly wrote a pamphlet on the subject, which was very favorably regarded by the Queen. In the end the Queen settled the precedence problem, so far as England was concerned, by declaring it to be her royal will and pleasure, under her sign-manual, that her husband should enjoy place pre-eminence, and precedence next to her Majesty.

Sunday, the 9th of February, Prince Albert spent in paying visits to the various members of the Royal Family, remaining for some time with the Queen Dowager and the Princess Augusta. His frank and manly bearing impressed all the Queen's relatives in his favor. So deeply did his religion enter into everything, tinged all with seriousness, though not with gloom, that only a very short time before the wedding ceremony he wrote to the venerable Dowager of Saxe-Coburg, who had enacted the part of a second mother to him, as follows: "In less than three hours I shall stand at the altar with my dear bride. In these solemn moments I must once more ask your blessing, which I am well assured I

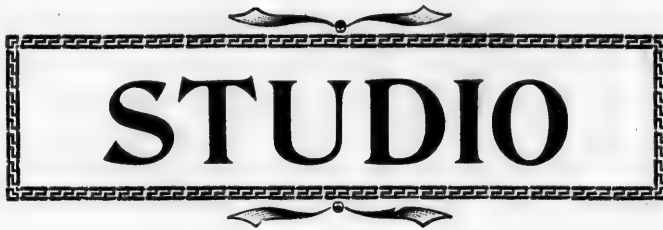
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shall receive, and which will be my safeguard and future joy. I must end. God help me, or rather God be my stay!" He could not, even in the prospect of so much happiness with his wife, lose sight of the fact that as a stranger in the land he would have much to live down.

The Queen had more than one trying ordeal before her. She left Windsor with the Duchess of Kent on the 20th of November for Buckingham Palace, and immediately summoned a Council for the 23rd. It was held in the bow-room of the palace, on the ground floor. Amongst those assembled was the venerable Duke of Wellington, respecting whom and the Sovereign an amusing anecdote had just been current. It was gravely reported that in an interview with her Majesty Lord Melbourne had represented to the Sovereign the advisability of her marriage, and had begged her to say whether there was any person for whom she entertained a preference. Her Majesty deigned to acknowledge that there was one man for whom she could conceive a regard, and that was Arthur, Duke of Wellington! If this anecdote were as true as it is good, it bore testimony to the sly humor of the Queen.

Her task before the Council was an embarrassing one, but her courage, as she tells us, was inspired by the sight of the Prince's picture in her bracelet. "Precisely at two I went in," writes the Queen in her *Journal*. "The room was full, but I hardly knew who was there. Lord Melbourne I saw looking kindly at me with tears in his eyes, but he was not near me. I then read my short declaration. I felt my hands shook, but I did not make one mistake. I felt most happy and thankful when it was over. Lord Lansdowne then rose, and in the name of the Privy Council asked that this most gracious

and most welcome communication might be printed. I then left the room, the whole thing not lasting above two or three minutes.

The wedding day dawned wet, cold, and foggy, but in spite of the dismal weather, people were out in crowds to see the wedding procession from Buckingham Palace to the chapel of St. James's Palace. We hear from one of the ladies in waiting that the Queen's look and manner were very pleasing; her eyes were swollen with tears, but great happiness was shown in her countenance, and her look of confidence and comfort as the Prince when they walked away as man and wife was very pleasing to see.

Although the morning had been so dreary, the sun broke through the clouds as the bridal party were returning, and when a little later on the royal pair drove away for their three days' holiday at Windsor the sun was shining with unusual brilliance for the season. All along the route thousands had turned out to cheer and wish the young couple "God speed," for the heart of the nation was touched by the sweet idyl of tender human love that this marriage presented. The Eton boys met the royal *cortège*, and ran after it all the way to Windsor, shouting as only schoolboys can shout.

It must not be imagined that the path of the newly-wedded pair was all roses at this time, for whatever gave pain to the Prince could not fail to touch the Queen even more keenly, and there were not wanting the proverbial thorns among the roses.

In May, 1840, the Prince writes: "In my home life I am very happy and contented; but the difficulty in filling my

place with the proper dignity is that I am only the husband, and not the master in the house." There were those, too, who sought to deny him, even in the domestic circle, that authority which in private families belongs to the husband, and without which there cannot be true comfort or happiness in family life.

This attempt to disturb the natural relationship between husband and wife, because in this case the wife was invested with the royal authority of a Sovereign, brought forth the Queen's own opinion upon the subject at last. The marriage vow, "to obey," as well as "to love and honor," could have but one meaning for her. It "was a sacred obligation which she could consent neither to limit nor refine away." It had made them one, and she lost no opportunity of making it felt that they must be regarded as one in heart and purpose, and, except in her purely regal functions, one also in authority.

Not less difficult and delicate was the Prince's task with regard to public affairs. As an intelligent, intellectual man, he could not be the husband of the Sovereign without taking a deep interest in politics. He resolved, therefore, while renouncing every impulse of personal ambition, "to consecrate himself with the most absolute devotion to deepening by the influence of his life and the example of his home the hold of the monarchy upon the affections of the people, and to making it a power which, amid the conflicting passions of political strife, should have for its object the people's welfare, and to uphold the power and dignity of the Empire."

WEDDED LIFE

AUSPICIOUSLY as the Queen's married life began, it necessarily caused some friction in quarters which were ruled by old Court principles. It was difficult for the officials of the palaces to settle down under the new conditions. All was altered, and Prince Albert found that even in his own home it was necessary to be stern sometimes and to exercise his authority. Writing to his old comrade, Prince Lowenstein, he said he was very happy and contented, but that he had difficulty in filling his place with proper dignity, as he was only the husband and not the master of the house. When the Queen was appealed to on the subject she stated that she had pledged herself to obey as well as to love and honor her husband, and that "this sacred obligation she could consent neither to limit nor define."

Dickens has covered with everlasting contempt the system of red-tapeism, but the red-tapeism of the public offices never approached in sheer ridiculousness to that which presided over the domestic arrangement of the royal palaces. Some ludicrous examples of the working of the system are furnished in Sir Theodore Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort," and in Baron Stockmar's "Memoirs." For instance, the three great officers of State, the Lord Steward, has already borne testimony. If he sometimes made mistakes, he certainly made fewer than might have been expected from one in his difficult position. But his unquestioned integrity, his sincerity honesty, and high principle, stood him in good stead.

The Queen and Prince Albert spent their first Easter together at Windsor, and here also they took the Sacrament in

common for the first time. Reference has already been made to the Prince's religious convictions, and the Queen has remarked concerning the taking of the Sacrament: "The Prince had a very strong feeling about the solemnity of the act, and did not like to appear in company either the evening before or on the day on which he took it, and he and the Queen almost always dined alone on these occasions." Describing one of these evenings in the *Early Years of the Prince Consort*, her Majesty says: "We two dined together. Albert likes being quite alone before he takes the Sacrament. We played part of Mozart's Requiem, and then he read to me out of *Stunden der Andacht* (Hours of Devotion) the article on *Selbster Kenntniss* (Self-Knowledge)." In how many Courts have evenings been spent after this fashion?

Towards the end of April there was a wedding in Paris which had a special interest for the Queen and Prince Albert. The Duc de Nemours led to the altar Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg, only daughter of the head of the Catholic branch of the family, sister of the King Consort of Portugal, and first cousin both to the Queen and Prince Albert. The Princess had spent much of her youth at Coburg, and had been the playmate of the Prince. She had also been the friend of the Queen from girlhood. Her Majesty wrote of their friendship: "We were like sisters: bore the same name—married the same year. There was in short a similarity between us which, since 1839, united us closely and tenderly."

The first occasion on which the Prince manifested his deep sympathy with humanitarian movements—one of the conspicuous features of his career—was on the 1st of June

when he presided over a meeting called to promote the abolition of the slave trade. He had carefully prepared his speech beforehand, committed it to memory, and repeated it to the Queen. The Prince made a successful *entrée* upon public life. Caroline Fox, the Quaker, makes mention of the Prince's appearance in her Memoirs: "The acclamations attending his entrance were perfectly deafening, and he bore them all with calm, modest dignity, repeatedly bowing with considerable grace. He certainly is a very beautiful young man—a thorough German, and a fine poetic specimen of the race. He uttered his speech in a rather low tone, and with the prettiest foreign accent."

London was startled on the evening of the 10th of June by the report of Oxford's attempt to assassinate the Queen. From the various accounts published at the time, and subsequently, it appears that the Queen and Prince Albert left Buckingham Palace by the garden gate opening from Constitution Hill for a drive. The hour was about six o'clock. They were seated in a very low German droschky, drawn by four horses, with postillions, preceded by two outriders and followed by two equerries. As soon as the carriage had proceeded a short distance up Constitution Hill, thus getting clear of spectators, a young man on the park side of the road presented a pistol, and fired it directly at the Queen. The Prince, hearing the report, turned his head in the direction whence it came; her Majesty at the same instant rose, but Prince Albert immediately pulled her down by his side.

For many days after the dastardly affair there was an exhibition of almost unbounded loyalty. The journals of the day reported that thousands of people continued to assemble

before the palace, and hundreds of noblemen, members of the Government, and private ladies and gentlemen, called to congratulate or inquire, and to present their grateful addresses on such a happy and providential deliverance. Whenever her Majesty and the Prince drove out they were escorted by hundreds of ladies and gentlemen on horseback, who accompanied them like a bodyguard ; whilst the immense sympathizing crowds cheered most enthusiastically. At first there was a surmise as to a widespread conspiracy being on foot, but this report was discovered to be unfounded, though there had been some slight countenance for it.

At the different theatres, and at places where public dinners were held, as soon as the news transpired on the Wednesday evening, the day of the attempt, "God save the Queen" was sung with loyal fervor. A grand concert was being held at the Opera House for the benefit of the New Musical Fund : it was to have terminated with Mozart's overture to *Idomeneo*, but Sir George Smart, conductor, stepped forward, and having informed the audience of the attempt on her Majesty's life, proposed to substitute the National Anthem. His suggestion was received with great enthusiasm.

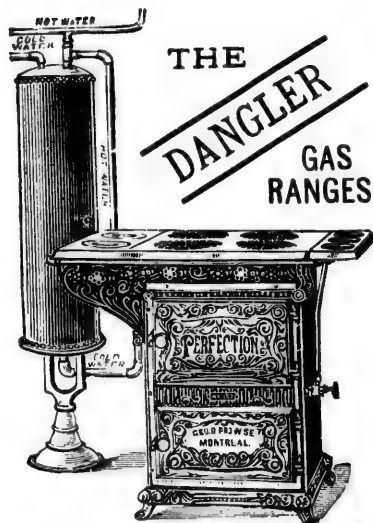
On the 12th a remarkable scene of loyalty was witnessed at Buckingham Palace. The sheriffs of London, the Cabinet Ministers, and others, attended early to present addresses of congratulation.

The daily life of the Royal pair has been described in the *Early Years of the Prince Consort*. From the pages of this work we learn that the Queen and Prince breakfasted at nine, and took a walk every morning soon afterwards. When in London these walks were taken in Buckingham Palace

gardens, which the Prince had already enlivened with different kinds of animals and aquatic birds. "In their morning walks in the gardens it was a great amusement to the Prince to watch and feed these birds. He taught them to come when he whistled to them from a bridge connecting a small island with the rest of the gardens."

After the walk "came the usual amount of business (far less heavy, however, then than now), besides which they drew and etched a great deal together, which was a source of great amusement, having the plates bit in the house. Luncheon followed at the usual hour of two o'clock. Lord Melbourne, who was generally staying in the house, came to the Queen in the afternoon; and between five and six the Prince usually drove her out in a pony phaeton. If the Prince did not drive the Queen he rode, in which case she drove with the Duchess of Kent or the ladies. The Prince also read aloud most days to the Queen. The dinner was at eight o'clock, and always with the company. In the evening the Prince frequently played at double chess, a game of which he was very fond, and which he played extremely well." On returning from his rides, which were generally into those London districts where improvements were going on, the Prince "would always come through the Queen's dressing-room, where she generally was at that time."





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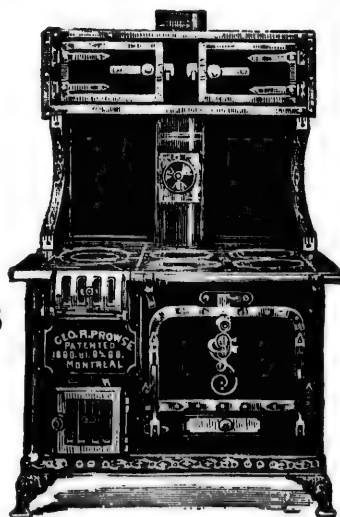
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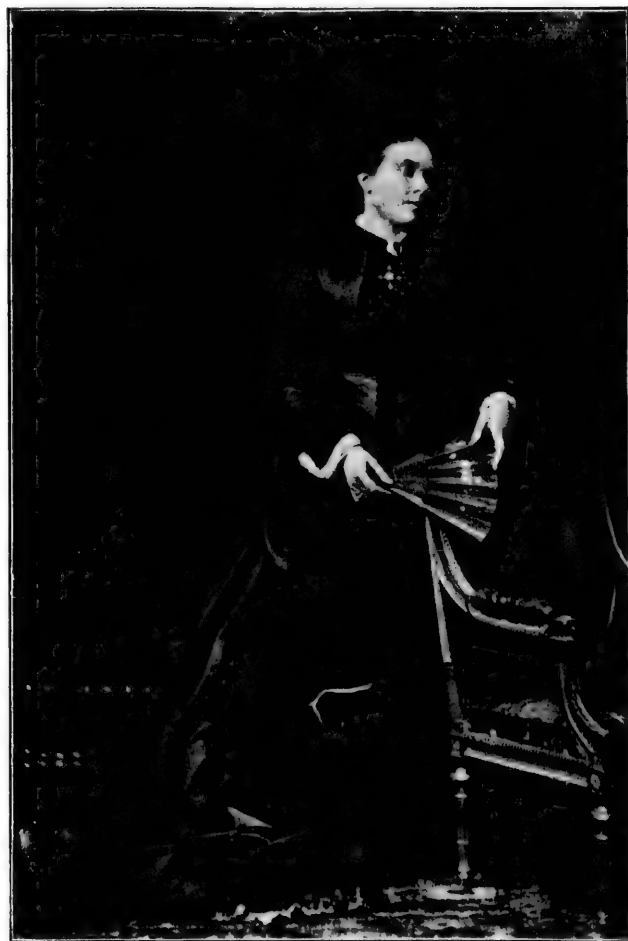
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H.R.H. PRINCESS ROYAL.

THE LITTLE PRINCES AND PRINCESSES.

EARLY in November preparations were made at Buckingham Palace for the approaching accouchement of the Queen. The Court removed from Windsor to London on the 13th, and on the 21st the Princess Royal was born at Buckingham Palace at 1.40 p.m. In the Queen's chamber were the Duchess of Kent, Prince Albert, and the medical men, with Mrs. Lilly, the nurse, and some of the ladies of the bedchamber. In an adjoining apartment, the door of which was open, were the Duke of Sussex, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Melbourne, Lord Palmerston, Lord Erroll, Lord Albemarle, Lord John Russell, and other Privy Councillors, whose constitutional duty it was to be present at the birth of an heir to the throne. At ten minutes before two Mrs. Lilly entered the antechamber where the Privy Councillors were assembled, with the "young stranger"—a beautiful, plump, and healthy princess—wrapped in flannel, in her arms. Sir James Clark followed the nurse. The babe was for a moment laid upon the table, but the loud tones in which she indicated her displeasure at thus being made "the observed of all observers," while they proved the soundness of her lungs and the maturity of her frame, rendered it advisable that she should be returned to her chamber to receive her first attire. Prince Albert received the congratulations of all present, and then the officials retired to spread the happy news throughout the metropolis. The Tower guns were fired in honor of the event. According to the gossip of the time, Prince Albert expressed a fear that the people might be disappointed, whereupon the Queen

re-assured him by saying, "Never mind ; the next shall be a boy."

A few days before her birth, a nobleman, knowing something of Prince Albert's anxiety concerning the Queen, asked if a special prayer for her should be added just now. "No, no ; you have one already in the Litany," said the Prince ; "you pray five times for the Queen already—it is too much."

"Can we pray, sir, too much for Her Majesty?" said the astonished nobleman.

"Not too heartily," replied the Prince, "but too often."

The Prince thought no care or trouble on his part too great to ensure the Queen's recovery, and he was never far from her side until she could leave her room and join the family circle again

The Queen speedily recovered from her accouchement, and opened Parliament in person on the 26th of January, 1841 Prince Albert, in the uniform of a field-marshal, entered the House of Lords with the royal procession, and took his seat on the chair of State appropriated for him on the left of the throne. The Queen's speech was not an exciting document. Happily, affairs were peaceful at home at this time, though abroad there were wars and rumors of wars. We were just passing through one of our many difficulties with China ; serious differences had arisen between Spain and Portugal on the navigation of the Douro ; and affairs in the Levant were in a serious condition. England had concluded with Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Turkey a convention intended to effect a pacification of the Levant, to maintain the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire, and thereby to afford

additional security for the peace of Europe. We had also concluded treaties with the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Hayti for the suppression of the slave trade.

The ensuing summer saw the Queen and her husband entering into the pleasures of the people and sharing them with much zest. They listened to the moving declamation of the great French actress, Rachel, and welcomed Adelaide Kemble, who made her first appearance in opera this season. The Queen's influence upon the stage was a healthful and restraining one. As Mrs. Oliphant has observed, she was "in the foreground of the national life, affecting it always for good, and setting an example of purity and virtue. The theatres to which she went, and which both she and her husband enjoyed, were purified by her presence; evils which had been the growth of years disappearing before the face of the young Queen."

The Whig Ministry having been defeated in the House of Commons by a majority of one, on a vote of want of confidence proposed by Sir Robert Peel, determined to appeal to the country. Parliament was dissolved accordingly, and the elections were held in July. The Conservatives gained a great majority, and when the new Parliament assembled in August, Ministers were placed in a minority of 91 in a House of 629 members. Lord Melbourne and his colleagues consequently resigned office. The Queen's parting with the Premier was a very trying one on both sides. In taking his leave of the Sovereign, Melbourne congratulated her on the great advantage she possessed in the presence and counsel of the Prince which would have the effect of softening to her the trial of the first change of Ministers in her reign. "For four years," added

Melbourne, "I have seen you every day; but it is so different from what it would have been in 1839."

A passage in the *Life of the Prince Consort*, referring to the bearing of the new Premier, says: "Lord Melbourne told Baron Stockmar, who had just returned from Coburg, that Sir Robert Peel had behaved most handsomely, and the conduct of the Prince throughout had been most moderate and judicious." All the friction caused by that little matter of Peel's attitude towards the Royal Annuity Bill had entirely passed away from the Prince's mind.

One of the earliest acts of the new Minister was to propose a Fine Arts Commission, with the Prince Albert as chairman. Its more immediate object was the superintendence of the artistic work at the new Houses of Parliament. Nothing could have been suggested which would have afforded greater pleasure to the Queen and the Prince than this commission, and the latter spoke of it as his real initiation into public life. It gave him an opportunity to display his taste, and to advance the liberal arts in the country. As to social reforms, it should be stated to the Prince's credit that it was owing to his influence, and that of the Duke of Wellington, that the practice of duelling disappeared from the British army.

There was great rejoicing at Buckingham Palace on the 9th of November, 1841, when the Queen gave birth to her first-born son, and consequently the heir to the throne. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Premier, and all the great officers of State were summoned to the palace as early as seven o'clock in the morning, and the Duchess of Kent arrived at nine. The Queen was then very ill, and had been so at intervals during the two preceding hours.



W. H. D. Young,

L. D. S., D. D. S.

MONTREAL,

CANADA.



H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Have you ever seen an Olive tree grow up, or seen them growing on the Mount of Olives, and on the hills and in the gardens round Jerusalem. The olive tree is not a pretty color. The leaves are of a dark bluish green, but it is an interesting tree for many reasons, and especially so from the curious way in which it grows. As soon as the olive gets to a certain size, it throws out its branches in all directions, and each of these branches splits away from the old stem, and becomes a 'separate tree; so that, as the old mother stem, little by little, fades away, the olive branches ground round it in a circle, young, strong trees, ready to take its place when it has crumbled away. King David had often seen the olive-trees growing, and when he was telling what blessings should come to the man that feareth the Lord, one of the chief of them was this, "Thy children shall be as olive-branches round about thy table."

Queen Victoria had nine olive-branches, four boys and five girls, a goodly ring round the noble parent stem. The good Duke of Wellington, "the Iron Duke," as he was called, was the godfather of the third boy, and very fond the old Duke was of his godson, who was named Arthur after him.

The Royal Princes and Princesses had a very happy childhood, for their Father and Mother spent much time with them, and did all they could to make them happy.

On the 11th of November the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and the sheriffs, were received at Buckingham Palace. After having had caudle served, the party were conducted by the Lord Chamberlain to the apartments of Prince Albert, to pay a visit of congratulation to his Royal Highness. The infant Prince was brought into the room in which

the company were assembled, and was carried round to all the distinguished visitors present. The Archbishop of Canterbury issued a special prayer to be offered up in all churches on behalf of the Queen and the infant Prince.

For the post of nurse to the royal child there had been many applications, some being from ladies of wealth and position. The choice of the Queen fell upon Mrs. Brough, an under-servant at Claremont, who was herself, before her marriage, a housemaid in the establishment. At the birth of the Princess Royal the previous wet-nurse received £500; but on the birth of the Prince of Wales all the gratuities were doubled.

There was great happiness within the palace. At Christmas the Queen wrote in her *Journal*: "To think that we have two children now, and one who enjoys the sight already (the Christmas-tree); it is like a dream." Prince Albert, writing to his father, said: "This is the dear Christmas Eve on which I have so often listened with impatience for your step, which was to convey us into the gift-room."

The christening of the Prince of Wales, which was made a very imposing ceremony, took place on the 25th of January, 1842, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The King of Prussia had arrived at the castle three days before, on a visit to the Queen, and to stand as chief sponsor at the christening. He was accompanied by the famous *savant*, Baron Alexander von Humboldt. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishops of London, Winchester, Oxford, and Norwich, officiated at the baptismal ceremony. The sponsors were the King of Prussia, the

Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Cambridge (proxy for the Princess Sophia). When the infant Prince was brought in and given into the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the sponsors named him "Albert Edward," by which names he was accordingly christened by his Grace. On the conclusion of the ceremony the *Hallelujah Chorus* was sung by the full choir, by request of Prince Albert, and the overture to Handel's oratorio of *Esther* was performed. The name of Albert was given to the young Prince, after his father, and that of Edward, after his maternal grandfather, the Duke of Kent.

After the christening the Queen held a chapter of the Order of the Garter, when the King of Prussia, as "a lineal descendant of King George I.," was elected a Knight Companion, the Queen buckling the garter round his knee. Then followed luncheon in the White Breakfast Room, and in the evening there was a grand banquet in St. George's Hall.

THE JOYS AND CARES OF HOME AND STATE.

BUT the year 1842 brought with it many sad episodes. Terrible news came from Afghanistan, where "the fatal policy of English interference with the fiery tribes of Northern India in support of an unpopular ruler had ended in the murder of Sir Alexander Burnes and Sir William Macnaghten, and the evacuation of Cabul by the English." Other disasters succeeded, chief amongst which was the destruction of her Majesty's 44th Regiment. The soldiers were cut down

almost to a man, and only one individual of the whole British force was able to reach Jellalabad. This was Dr. Brydon, who arrived there, faint and wounded, on the 13th of January. The story of his sufferings, as well as a graphic narrative of the whole campaign, is to be read in the journals of the period. The British army marched through the Khyber Pass defeated Akbar Khan in the Tezeen Valley, and eventually reached Cabul, when the prisoners, long pent up within that city, were released. Cabul was subsequently evacuated, and Jellalabad was destroyed. The British arms ultimately, triumphed, but only after a fearful and bloody campaign, in which many of the finest of our troops were cut off by a harassing guerilla warfare.

As the year opened we were also at war with China. Fortunately, the uniform success which had attended our previous hostile operations against that Power once more smiled upon our arms, and brought the Celestials to reason. After the taking of Chin-keang-foo by the British, and the appearance of our squadron before Nankin, hostilities were suspended, and negotiations for peace were entered into and concluded between the Chinese Commissioners and Sir Henry Pottinger.

On the 12th of May the Queen gave a grand *bal masqué* at Buckingham Palace, which is spoken of as "the Queen's Plantagenet Ball." The object of the ball was to endeavor to give a stimulus to trade in London, which had gradually been getting worse. At the Palace on this brilliant occasion a past age was revived with great picturesqueness and splendor. Her Majesty appeared as Queen Philippa, consort of Edward III., and Prince Albert as Edward III. himself;

the costumes of those of the Queen's own circle belonging mostly to the same era. Fabulous sums were spent upon dresses, diamonds, and jewels, which could hardly have a direct effect upon the trade of the East end, though they undoubtedly did upon that of the West. Her Majesty's dress, however, was entirely composed of materials manufactured at Spitalfields. In her crown she had only one diamond, but that was a treasure in itself, being valued at £10,000. The leading feature of the ball, according to the journals of the day, was the assemblage and meeting of the Courts of Anne of Brittany (the Duchess of Cambridge) and Edward III. and Philippa. All the arrangements were made in exact accordance with the period. Amongst those representing distinguished characters were the Princess Augusta of Cambridge as Princess Claude, the Duke of Beaufort as Louis XII., the Earl of Pembroke as the Comte d'Angoulême, Prince George of Cambridge as Gaston de Foix, the Marchioness of Ailesbury as the Duchesse de Ferrare, Lord Cardigan as Bayard, Lady Exeter as Jeanne de Conflans, Lord Claud Hamilton as the Comte de Chateaubriand, and Lady Lincoln as Anne de Villeroi.

About a fortnight after this pageant a grand ball was given in her Majesty's Theatre for the benefit of the Spitalfields weavers, at which the Queen was present with a brilliant circle. Fancy balls were also given at Stafford House and Apsley House for the same charitable object.

Two daring attempts to assassinate the Queen were made this year, within a few weeks of each other. The first was by a man named John Francis. Towards seven o'clock on the evening of May 30, her Majesty and party were pro-

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ceeding down Constitution Hill. When about halfway down, the would-be assassin Francis was seen to take a pistol from his side, and to fire it in the direction of the royal carriage, from which he was distant not more than seven feet. The Queen manifested her usual courageous demeanor under the outrage. Francis was immediately seized by Private Allen, of the Fusilier Guards, and Police Constable Turner, who was attempting to dash the pistol out of his hand when the shot was fired. The culprit was taken to the lodge adjoining the Palace, where he was searched; and a ball, with a little powder, and the still warm pistol were taken from his person. The man maintained a dogged silence as to its motive, and refused to give any explanation about his antecedents; but it was subsequently ascertained that he was the son of a machinist in Drury Lane Theatre, and had for some months been out of employment. When the news of the outrage reached the Houses of Parliament, both Lords and Commons adjourned in confusion, as it was found impossible to carry on the public business amidst the excitement which the attempt occasioned.

The Queen and her husband had driven out by Hampstead, being warmly cheered along the route, and had nearly accomplished the return journey, when between the Green Park and the garden wall, and just opposite to where Oxford had made his attempt two years before, the miscreant Francis, who was lying in wait, fixed his pistol, being then about five or seven paces off. The Prince at once recognized the man as the same "little swarthy ill-looking rascal" who had made the abortive attempt on the preceding day.

"We felt as if a load had been taken off our hearts," wrote

the Prince when all was safely overpast, "and we thanked the Almighty for having preserved us a second time from so great a danger." The Duchess of Kent was deeply affected when she met the Queen at the palace after the affair. Falling upon her daughter's neck, she burst into tears, and the Queen "endeavored to reassure her with cheerful words and affectionate caresses." As for the Sovereign lady herself, she soon recovered her wonted equanimity, and writing to King Leopold on the following day, she said: "I was really not at all frightened, and feel very proud at dear uncle Mensdorff calling me "very courageous," which I shall ever remember with peculiar pride, coming from so distinguished an officer as he is." It may be stated that the "uncle Mensdorff" here mentioned was a private gentleman, a French *émigré*, who became a distinguished officer in the Austrian service, and who married the Duchess of Kent's eldest sister.

The trial of John Francis for shooting at the Queen took place on June 17th, when the prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to death. The death sentence on Francis was commuted to transportation for life, and he was sent out to Tasmania.

QUEEN'S FIRST VISIT TO SCOTLAND.

HER Majesty's first visit to Scotland—the land for which she afterwards came to entertain such affection—was paid in the year 1842. On the 29th of August the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Duchess of Norfolk and the Earl of Morton, as lady and lord in waiting, and other members of the household, embarked at Woolwich in the *Royal George* yacht, commanded by Lord Adolphus Fitz-

clarence. When her Majesty arrived off Tilbury Fort—a place associated with the name of her predecessor, Queen Elizabeth—she was received with a royal salute from the guns of the fortress, and the troops in the garrison were drawn out and presented arms. The scene on the Gravesend shore, where considerable numbers of spectators had assembled, was very animated. The royal squadron was received with loud cheers as it passed, the Gravesend steamers hoisted their flags, and the different bands played “God Save the Queen,” until the royal yacht was out of sight. It appears from the *Annual Register*, that during the progress of the squadron to the North every tower and beacon along the coast vied in demonstrations of loyalty. The Mayor of Ipswich, with a party, came forth in a steamer to offer his obeisance; but the authorities of Sunderland, in the exuberance of their loyal feelings, were a day too early.

The Queen set out from Dalkeith Palace about half-past ten o'clock a.m. Around her carriage were the Royal Company of Archers. Her Majesty wore a tartan plaid of the Royal Stuart pattern. As the Queen entered the precincts of the royal grounds a salute was fired from the Castle. Amidst the loud cheers of the people the procession moved up the Canongate and the High Street to the Cross, where the city barrier was erected. Here the magistracy were assembled to present the keys of the city to the Sovereign, and the crowd was excessive. There were also drawn up at this spot the members of the Celtic Society, in the full costume of their respective clans. They saluted the Queen with their claymores in true Highland fashion, and her Majesty made a gracious acknowledgment. The Society then formed in the

rear of the royal *cortège*, and escorted her Majesty to the Castle. The procession halted in front of the Royal Exchange, about fifty yards from the barrier, where the Lord Provost advanced, and after delivering a brief address, presented the keys of the city to her Majesty.

The Queen, after receiving the keys, replied, with much dignity mingled with kindness of manner: "I return the keys of the city with perfect confidence into the safe keeping of the Lord Provost, magistrates, and council."

The procession then resumed its course up the High Street and Lawnmarket. On entering the esplanade of the Castle her Majesty was received by the Commander of the Forces, Sir Niel Douglas, escorted by the Governor and the Fort Major, on either side, and holding the arm of her husband.

In the afternoon the Queen and Prince Albert left Dalmeny Park for Dalkeith, passing through Leith, which was *en fête*, and where her Majesty stopped to receive a civic address.

While the Queen had been viewing Edinburgh Castle, the foundation-stone of the Victoria Hall, and the buildings erected for the accommodation of the General Assembly, was laid by Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, Acting Grand Master Mason of Scotland, accompanied by the Earl of Buchan, Acting Deputy, with the members of the Grand Lodge, and about 300 brethren of other lodges.

Sunday, the 4th of September, being the first Lord's Day which the Queen had spent in Scotland, her Majesty at noon attended divine service in a chapel in Dalkeith Palace, fitted up expressly for the use of the Royal Family and suite.

The Rev. E. B. (afterwards Dean) Ramsay, of St John's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, officiated. A little ecclesiastical war followed upon this circumstance in the newspapers. The Presbyterians were greatly dissatisfied because *her Majesty* did not attend the Church of Scotland, and it was some time before their angry feelings were allayed. The arrangements for the Queen were made without any "malice aforethought," however; and the Ministers in attendance upon her—Sir Robert Peel and the Earls of Aberdeen and Liverpool—did attend divine service in the parish church.

On the 5th *her Majesty* held a *levée* in Dalkeith Palace, which was attended by an extraordinary concourse of the nobility and gentry of Scotland. Holyrood House could not be used on the occasion, because of a contagious fever lately prevalent in the vicinity.

The Queen received a number of deputations, including one from the Church of Scotland, and in replying to the address of the latter she said: "I acknowledge with gratitude the inestimable advantages which have been derived from the ministrations of the Church of Scotland. They have contributed in an eminent degree to form the character of a loyal and religious people." Addresses were also presented from the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, St. Andrews, and Aberdeen, and from the Lord Provost and magistrates of Edinburgh.

The remainder of the Queen's Scotch visit was thoroughly enjoyed by the Sovereign and her husband. On the 6th they left Dalkeith and went to Queensferry, where they embarked in a royal steamer. Landing at North Ferry, in Fifeshire, they proceeded to Dupplin Castle, where they dined with the

Earl of Kinnoull. The Lord Provost and town council of Perth attended to present an address, and subsequently her Majesty drove into Perth, where a handsome triumphal arch of Grecian architecture had been erected in honor of her visit.

Prince Albert was entertained on the 8th to a deer-stalking expedition, in which 150 men were engaged. The Prince was the only person who fired, and he killed nineteen roe-deer, besides several brace of grouse and other game. The Queen occupied herself in walking through the gardens of the Castle. She also visited the dairy, and to the surprise and delight of the woman in charge, had some milk and a piece of bread. The amusements were continued on the 9th; and in the evening a ball was given, which her Majesty opened with the Duke of Buccleuch and the Prince with the Duchess.

At Stirling, an interesting incident occurred. The Provost, in receiving her Majesty, informed her that he had the honor to serve under the Duke of Kent for twenty-four years. The Queen was quite delighted, and replied: "It gives me great satisfaction to meet, in the Provost of this town, one who has served under my revered father." After visiting Stirling Castle, the royal party went on to Falkirk, and from thence pursued their journey towards Edinburgh, passing on the way the fine old ruin of Niddry Castle, the retreat of Mary Queen of Scots on her escape from Loch Leven. Her Majesty and the Prince Consort reached Dalkeith Palace at six o'clock, after a very fatiguing day.

Her Majesty quitted Scotland on the morning of the 15th of September, after a stay of exactly a fortnight in the

Northern portion of her dominions. At Granton Pier she embarked on board the steamer *Trident*, belonging to the General Steam Navigation Company, with the flag of Sir Edward Bruce, Vice-Admiral of the White, flying at the fore. The steamer had a safe passage, and at 10 A.M. on the 17th the royal party landed at Woolwich amid the cheers of the assembled multitude and the thunder of cannon.

The Duke of Wellington received the Queen, the Prince, and the royal children on a visit at Walmer Castle, near Deal, on the 10th of November ensuing. The veteran soldier welcomed her Majesty at the gate of the Castle, and she ascended the grand staircase leaning upon his arm. The Queen was in excellent health and spirits, and soon after her arrival, it being a moonlight night, she walked out upon the ramparts, and enjoyed the fine view which presented itself from that elevation.

For two or three weeks the royal visitors remained at Walmer, taking daily walks or drives in the neighborhood. On one occasion the Queen and Prince took a very rough walk completely unattended except by their favorite dogs, and they went as far as the village of Kingsdown, calling on

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the way at the cottage of an old fisherman, and chatting for a short time with his daughter. On the night of the 22nd there was a fearful gale; and four Deal boatmen, in attempting to board a foreign ship in the Downs, in a distressed and hazardous state, were unfortunately drowned. Her Majesty, on being apprised of the circumstances, caused to be forwarded to the Mayor of Deal a cheque for £20, to be divided between the poor families which had been thus suddenly bereaved.

During her stay at Walmer, the Queen received the important and gratifying intelligence of the reconquest of Afghanistan by British troops, as well as the news of the conclusion of peace with China. On the 3rd of December, the Royal Family took leave of the Duke of Wellington and returned to Windsor, travelling the whole distance by road in closed carriages and four.

When Parliament assembled on the 1st of February, 1844 the Queen was unable, for the first time since her accession, to open it in person. But not long after this we find that she manifested her anxiety for the highest interests of the people by returning a gracious answer to an address forwarded to her at the instance of the philanthropic Lord Ashley (the Earl of Shaftesbury of honored memory), praying the Sovereign seriously to consider the best means of diffusing the blessings of a moral and religious education among the working-classes.



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H.R.H. PRINCESS ALICE.

QUEEN'S FAVORITE DAUGHTER.

THE Princess Alice, born in 1843, was spoken of by her father in early childhood as "the beauty of the family," and as "a very good and merry child." She was trained and educated with the care bestowed on all the daughters of the Queen.

As the Princess Alice grew towards womanhood, the Queen wrote of her: "She is very good, gentle, sensible, and a real comfort to me." And deeply this was felt when times of darkness and sorrow came, first in the death of the Queen's mother, the Duchess of Kent, and the unspeakable sorrow of the death of the Prince Consort. It will never be forgotten how this loved and loving daughter watchfully tended her father in the early days of his illness; and the helper and comforter of the widowed mother. When the worst fears seemed about to be realised and the serious nature of the illness became evident, that short season of anxiety transformed the bright cheerful girl into a thoughtful, sagacious woman. The whole household, and all who had opportunity of knowing, witnessed and wondered at the change. She stood between the ministers and officers of State and her mother during that dark hour. Through her all communications to the Queen passed while she was stricken down with grief, and through her came all orders from the Queen, on official matters.

The character formed in these days remained when she went to her new home with her husband, Prince Louis of Hesse. A good wife and good mother, she also busied her-

self in all useful and charitable works. The organization of a *Frauen Verein* or Ladies' Guild for the care of the sick and wounded brought her into prominence when the Franco-German war broke out. The Queen helped her in this work, and was delighted to find that her daughter joined to the energy and heroism of a soldier's wife the instincts and interest of a devoted and generous carer for the afflicted.

Her greatest comfort and stay, after the death of the Prince Consort, was her second daughter, the Princess Alice. She was the medium of communication between Her Majesty and the Ministry for some time, and she did all she could to supply her father's place, both to the nation and the bereaved household, and the Queen learned to depend more upon Alice than any of her other children. Her death on the fatal 14th of December, 1878, was another severe blow to the Queen. She was the first of her nine children taken from her by death, and she died as she had lived, a model daughter, wife, and mother.

The Queen has experienced the joys as well as the sorrows of a mother of a large family. She has had the joy of seeing all her sons and daughters married. From the Queen's own pen we have the account of a daughter whose life was a conspicuous illustration of her mother's wise and happy influence. A charming volume contains the letters and tells the story of the Princess Alice. In editing and publishing the *Letters of the Princess Alice of Hesse*, it has pleased the Queen to bring to the knowledge of the world one of the best and brightest characters in history. These letters not only reveal the story of her life in the land of her adoption, but give charming glimpses of the old home and the loved

ones in England. The letters to the Queen towards the close of her own life throw much light on the religious feelings and character of her royal mother.

The first public result of the labors of the Royal Commission on the Fine Arts, of which Prince Albert was President, was witnessed in June, 1843. On the 29th of that month the Queen and the Prince Consort, accompanied by the King and Queen of the Belgians, visited an exhibition of cartoons in Westminster Hall. They were prize cartoons for the decoration of the new Houses of Parliament. Designs were afterwards carried out in frescoes, but unfortunately the process has not proved so durable as was expected at the time by the artists and experts concerned. Some time before the decoration of the Houses of Parliament, Prince Albert had also given orders for a series of fresco paintings from Milton's *Comus*, in eight lunettes, to decorate a pavilion in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. Amongst the distinguished artists employed were Maclise, Leslie, Landseer, Dyce, Ewins, and Stanfield. The Queen and Prince took great interest in the work, and made frequent visits to the pavilion to see how the artists were progressing. Ewins, in writing of this time, has observed that in many things the Queen and her Consort were a pattern to their age. "They have breakfasted, heard morning prayers with the household in the private chapel, and are out some distance from the Palace, talking to us in the summer-house, before half-past nine o'clock, sometimes earlier. After the public duties of the day, and before dinner, they come out again, evidently delighted to get away from the bustle of the world to enjoy each other's society in the solitude of the garden. Here, too, the royal children are

brought out by the nurses, and the whole arrangement seems like real domestic pleasure."

At the close of August, 1843, her Majesty and the Prince went on a yachting expedition round the Isle of Wight, subsequently proceeding to Dartmouth, Plymouth, and Falmouth. At the last-named place, the Queen was rowed round the harbor in a barge, and Lady Bloomfield, who accompanied her Majesty, states that the crowd was awful. Vessels and boats of every description, large and small, filled to the utmost; and the moment they caught sight of the royal barge, the people seemed to lose their heads completely, left the helms to take care of themselves, and rushed to the side of the vessel nearest the barge, so that it was really alarming, and the Queen expressed great anxiety for her loyal subjects. Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence ordered the men to pull away as hard as they could when he saw an opening, so the royal barge outdistanced the pleasure boats and got back safe to the yacht. Here the Queen received the Mayor, who being a Quaker, asked permission to remain with his hat on.

The royal party left Falmouth on board the *Victoria and Albert*, and sailed for Cherbourg, in order that her Majesty might pay her expected visit to King Louis Philippe. In Lady Bloomfield's *Reminiscences* occurs this entertaining passage: "I remained on deck a long time with her Majesty, and she taught me to plait paper for bonnets, which was a favorite occupation of the Queen's. Lady Canning and I had settled ourselves in a very sheltered place, protected by the paddle-box, her Majesty sent for her camp-stool and settled herself beside us, plaiting away most composedly, when suddenly we observed a commotion amongst the sailors.

The royal yacht passed Cherbourg and Dieppe without calling at either place, and at half-past five on the afternoon of September 2 came in sight of Eu. As soon as she was seen, King Louis Philippe, accompanied by the Duc de Montpensier, Lord Cowley, and several of the suite, put off in the royal barge, and immediately came on board the yacht. The King embraced the Queen on both cheeks, and then kissed her Majesty's hand, and welcomed her most heartily to the shores of France. It was the first time an English Sovereign had visited France since the Field of the Cloth of Gold. At first the King seemed quite overcome; but he soon recovered himself, and spoke in excellent English. On the Queen leaving her yacht, the Royal Standard of England was lowered, and the Standards of England and France were hoisted on the King's barge.

Under a large canopy close to the shore were Queen Marie Amélie, the Queen of the Belgians, Madame Adélaïde, the King's old sister, the Prince and Princess de Joinville, the Duchesse d'Orléans, the Prince and Princess Augustus of Saxe Coburg, and many others. As the royal barge approached they came close to the landing stage, falling close in line behind the Queen of the French. The King took the Queen of

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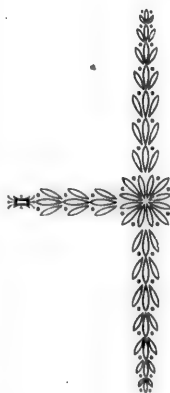
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England by the hand and assisted her up the steps. As the two Queens advanced to meet each other, the most enthusiastic cheering broke forth from the spectators, and the cannon boomed. Louis Philippe presented her Majesty to the Queen of the French, who took her by both hands and saluted her several times on both cheeks, with evident warmth of manner.

Sunday the 3rd was a quiet day, and as her Britannic Majesty had not a chaplain with her, she had prayers read in a private apartment by one of the persons in her suite. The members of the French Royal Family forbore from the gay amusements usual in France in compliment to the feelings of the English party.

A grand *fête Champêtre* was the great event of the 4th. It was given by the King to his illustrious visitors, on the Mont d'Orléans, an elevated spot in the midst of the forest of Eu. A very pleasing and picturesque appearance was presented by the groups of gaily dressed persons who had assembled, and who mingled with the soldiers, gendarmes, and peasants. There was a splendid luncheon, the King of the French sitting at the centre of the table, with Queen Victoria on his right. A very interesting gathering of statesmen was to be seen further down the table, where M. Guizot was seated, between Lord Aberdeen and Lord Liverpool. After luncheon the King gave his arm to Queen Victoria, and walked round the platform before the tent, being followed by Prince Albert with the Queen of the French. This presentation by the King of his youthful guest to the crowd led to a burst of cheers, which were again and again renewed till the departure of the whole party, and until they were out of sight on their way back to Eu.

In the evening there was a large dinner-party at the château, the guests numbering more than seventy; and after dinner there was a beautiful instrumental concert conducted by Auber.

There was another forest *fête* on the following day, and on the 7th the Queen and Prince took leave of the King, expressing their warmest thanks for his great hospitality.

The royal party embarked on board their yacht the *Victoria and Albert*, and sailed for England, being accompanied by a squadron of French yachts under the command of Prince de Joinville. Arriving off Brighton, the royal barge was lowered, and was rowed towards the eastern side of the pier by ten of the Queen's crew. The approach of her Majesty to the shore was the signal for loud cheering by thousands on the beach and on the cliffs. The bathing-women and the fishermen ran far out into the water, waving their hats and testifying the utmost joy. Her Majesty stood up again and again, and bowed and kissed her hand. The scene was very picturesque and heart-stirring, and this warm welcome from her own people made a deep impression upon the Sovereign.

A few days after her return, the Queen again left her native shores for Ostend, on a visit to the King and Queen of the Belgians. On landing at Ostend, her Majesty and Prince Albert were received by the King and Queen, and drove off to the royal palace at Laeken. On the 15th of September, the royal party went from Ostend to Bruges, and spent the day in visiting this quaint and venerable seat of the merchant princes of the Middle Ages, and which had further been the abode of the Counts of Flanders and the regal residence of the Dukes of Burgundy.

Addresses were presented by Lord Lyndhurst, the high steward of the University, and Mr. Whewell, the Vice-Chancellor, and the heads of the University were presented to her Majesty. In the evening the Queen held a *levée*, and she remained for the night at Trinity College.

Next morning she and the Prince proceeded to the Senate House, where the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon his Royal Highness with the usual ceremonies. After he had been duly admitted to the degree by the Vice-Chancellor, the Prince was invested with the doctor's scarlet robe, and took the velvet cap in his hand. A loud burst of cheering, accompanied with the waving of caps, went through the hall as his Royal Highness, thus equipped, walked back to his seat beside her Majesty. Amidst the cheering some cries were heard of "Doctor Albert."

The royal pair afterwards visited the various colleges, the University library, etc., and in the afternoon proceeded to Wimpole, the seat of the Earl of Hardwicke, about ten miles southwest of Cambridge. Although a select party was invited to meet the illustrious visitors, the visit was a strictly private one, in accordance with the Queen's wish. Her Majesty breakfasted at the early hour of eight next morning, and then enjoyed herself in the grounds. In the evening a splendid ball was given, to which the leading county families were invited. Colonel Ramsay, who was on escort duty with the Queen, has recorded some amusing incidents of this ball. One of these incidents was as follows:—"During the dancing several circles were formed. There was one reserved exclusively for her Majesty and Prince Albert, who waltzed together.

The Queen had some strange visitors at Windsor near the close of the year—to wit, eight Indians of the Chippewa tribe. There were five chiefs, two women, a little girl, and a half-breed. They were under the charge of Mr. Catlin, the interpreter, and her Majesty received them in the Waterloo Gallery. Prince Albert shook hands with the chiefs, all of whom had fought for British interests. We are told that they looked exceedingly grave, and were dressed with large bunches of feathers on their heads, having on large skins, while their faces were dreadfully tattooed. The women had long black hair, and a dress which came down to their feet. They had quantities of colored beads hung about them, and one had a small looking glass. The chiefs danced two waltzes, which very much astonished and interested the Queen.

The last days of January were saddened for the Queen and her Consort by the death of Prince Albert's father, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, at the age of sixty years. The Prince had been looking forward to a reunion in Germany, and now the Queen was called upon to write as follows to Baron Stockmar :—" Oh, if you could be here now with us! My darling stands so alone, and his grief is so great and touching. He says (forgive my bad writing, but my tears blind me) *I am now all to him.* Oh, if I can be, I shall be only too happy; but I am so disturbed and affected myself, I fear I can be but of little use." The Prince, however, found deep solace in her affection, observing to an intimate friend that she felt and shared his grief, and was the treasure on which his whole affection rested

The first public statue of her Majesty which had been

erected in any part of her dominions was unveiled at Edinburgh on the 24th of January, in this year. It was a colossal statue by Mr.(afterwards Sir John) Steell, and it was placed in position on the colonnade of the Royal Institution, fronting Prince's Street. From the high elevation of the pedestal the gigantic figure, which was nearly four times life size, assumed to the spectators almost natural proportions, and harmonized with the massive building on which it was placed. The whole composition was modelled on the severest principles of Grecian art, and it still remains a classic conception of much grandeur. Her Majesty is represented seated on a throne, with the diadem on her brow, while her right hand grasps the sceptre, and her left leans on the orb, emblematic of her extended sway.

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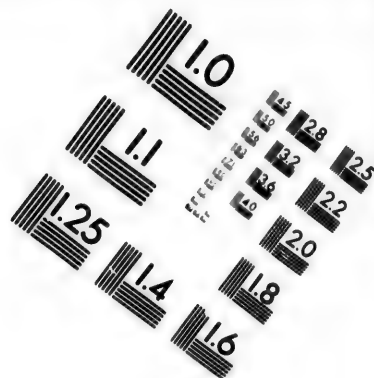
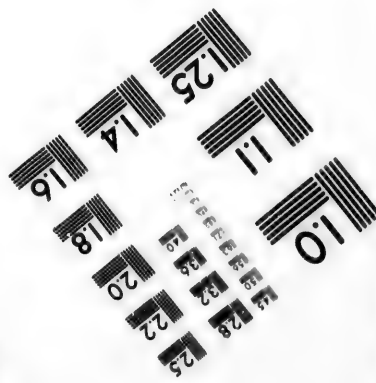
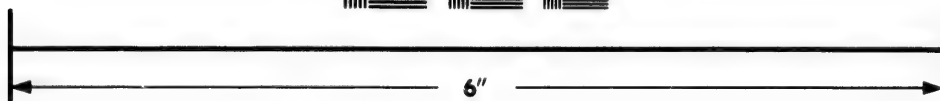
in the royal household at Windsor early this year. At the suggestion of her Majesty, all the unused bread of the various departments, which amounted to an enormous quantity in the course of the year, and which had hitherto been disposed of in an unsatisfactory manner, was directed to be given in future to the inmates of the several almshouses within the burgh of Windsor. A visitor at the Castle has referred to the enormous preparation and expense which were going forward every day, and to the strange sight which the royal kitchen almost daily presented. "The fire was more like Nebuchadnezzar's 'burning fiery furnace' than anything else I can think of; and though there is now no company at Windsor, there were at least fifteen or twenty large joints of meat roasting."

A distinguished visitor arrived at the Windsor in March, in the person of General Tom Thumb. He was under the charge of his guardian, the enterprising Barnum, and the General afforded much entertainment to her Majesty, Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, and the members of the royal household, by his extraordinary intellectual display. It was stated that his smart replies to the various questions put to him by the Queen caused great astonishment.

"General," said the Queen, "this is the Prince of Wales."

"How are you, Prince?" said the General, shaking him by the hand, and then, standing beside the Prince he remarked: "The Prince is taller than I am; but I feel as tall as anybody;" upon which he strutted up and down the room as proud as a peacock, amidst shouts of laughter from all present.

"The Queen then introduced the Princess Royal, and the

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General immediately led her to his elegant little sofa, which we took with us, and with much politeness sat himself down beside her. Then rising from his seat, he went through his various performances, and the Queen handed him an elegant and costly souvenir, which had been expressly made for him by her order, for which he told her ' he was very much obliged, and would keep it as long as he lived.' The Queen of the Belgians (daughter of King Louis Philippe) was present on this occasion." The General was startled by the barking of the Queen's favorite poodle, and he at once began an attack upon that animal with his little cane. A funny fight ensued, greatly to the merriment of the royal party.

The souvenir which her Majesty gave to Tom Thumb was very superb, being of mother-of-pearl set with rubies, and bearing a crown and the royal initials, " V. R." After each visit also a handsome sum was presented to Mr. Barnum.

On the 4th, the Emperor, the King of Saxony, and Prince Albert witnessed the races at Ascot, and on the following day there was a grand military review in the Great Park at Windsor. The greatest enthusiasm was manifested for the Iron Duke, who really attracted more attention than the Czar; but Wellington took off his hat, and waving it in the air, said to the people very earnestly: "No, no! not me—the Emperor! the Emperor!" The people then warmly cheered the Czar. During the inspection of troops, the Emperor was most keenly interested in the 17th Lancers and 47th Foot. He surveyed them minutely, saying that he wished to see the regiments which had fought and gained our battles in India. On the approach of the Life Guards, the Duke of Wellington put himself at the head of his regiment, and

advanced with it before her Majesty ; the spectacle calling forth an exhibition of unusual enthusiasm. In spite of the immense number of spectators present, not a single accident occurred during the day.

On the evening of this day, and for several succeeding days there were splendid festivities at Windsor and Buckingham Palace, and on the 8th of June the Duke of Devonshire gave a grand *fête* to the Emperor and the King of Saxony at his Grace's suburban villa at Chiswick. The Queen Prince Albert, the Czar, and the King subsequently attended the opera at her Majesty's Theatre, which was crowded in every part. On the 10th, the Emperor Nicholas left London on his return to Russia. During his stay in England, the Emperor's private gifts had been on the most lavish and princely scale, no one being forgotten ; while as regards his public benefactions, he gave 1000 guineas to the Society for the Relief of Foreigners in Distress ; £500 to the Nelson Testimonial Fund ; £500 to the Wellington Testimonial Fund ; a piece of plate, of the value of £500, to be annually run for at Ascot races ; £200 guineas to the poor of St. George's parish ; 100 guineas towards the formation of a Hospital for Distressed Germans in London etc.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

THE Queen gave birth to a son on the 6th of August at Windsor Castle, 1844. The event was scarcely expected so soon, and only three hours before, her Majesty had signed the Commission for giving the royal assent to various Bills. The Queen's happy deliverance was an-

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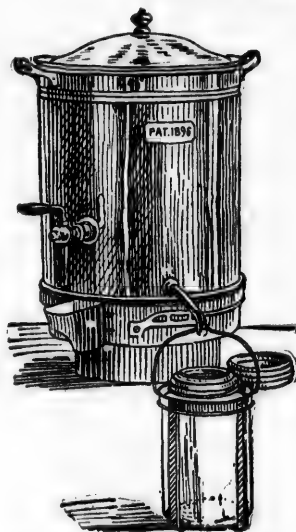
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H.R.H. DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

nounced in the *Times* in precisely forty minutes after it had taken place at Windsor Castle ; and as this was the first occasion on which the electric telegraph had been so used, the rapid publication of the news was considered very surprising. The young prince was christened on the 6th September in the names of Alfred Ernest Albert, being afterwards created Duke of Edinburgh.

This stay in the North was most delightful and refreshing to the royal travellers. Her Majesty took constant walks and drives in the romantic scenery with which the district abounds, visiting Glen Tilt, the Falls of Garry, Tulloch Hill, the Falls of the Tummel, Killiecrankie, and the Falls of Bruar. She also ascended Ben-y-Gloe, witnessed the Highland dancing ; the fascinating sports of deer-stalking and otter-hunting ; watched the women reapers in the glens, and otherwise entered with interest into the life of the people in this charming region. She gave considerable satisfaction by avowing a *penchant* for Athole brose—a very pleasant composition, which consists of honey, whiskey and milk.

When the time came for journeying South again the Queen and her Consort left Scotland with great regret ; they had begun to appreciate the beauty and grandeur of its scenery, and the charms of solitude which this "land of the mountain and the flood" afforded so abundantly.

London saw a splendid show on the 28th of October, when the Queen opened the new Royal Exchange. The procession was magnificent, and very similar to the one at the Coronation. From Buckingham Palace to the Exchange every place, hole or cranny which commanded the smallest

view of the route was crammed to suffocation. The Lord Mayor and Aldermen met the Queen at Temple Bar at twelve and escorted her to her destination. On alighting at the Exchange, she walked round the colonnade, and through the inner court. She then went upstairs, and walked through the second banquetting-hall to show herself; subsequently receiving an address in a small room prepared for the purpose. After the address, she created the Lord Mayor (Sir William Magnay) a baronet. A few hours before, his lordship had been in the most pitiful distress, for in going to receive her Majesty he had put on an enormous pair of jack-boots to protect himself from the mud; and as the Queen approached he was unable to get them off—or at least one of them. He had one on and one off just as the Sovereign was about to draw up at Temple Bar, and in an agony of fright he ordered the attendants, who were tugging at the immovable boot, to let it alone and to replace the other one, which they did. These boots he was compelled to wear until after the ceremony.

The new buildings now opened formed the third Exchange. Gresham's original Exchange was destroyed in the Great Fire of London, and its successor was burnt down in 1838. A grand *déjeuner* followed the opening ceremony, and in the evening there were great festivities in the City.

At Windsor Castle, on the 30th of October, the Queen received Sir Robert and Lady Sale; and her Majesty heard from the lips of the heroic lady a narrative of the privations to which she and other captives had been exposed in Afghanistan. Lady Sale went through fearful hardships during the disastrous retreat from Cabul. She was severely wounded

on the second day of the march, and for nine days she was compelled to wear a habit that was like a sheet of solid ice, for having been wet through it had been afterwards frozen. She had been in captivity ten months, with her daughter, Mrs. Sturt, and the latter was confined of a child during the time in a tiny room without light or air. The baby lived, however, notwithstanding that its mother and Lady Sale were frequently twenty-four hours without food. Akhbar Khan treated them cruelly while pretending to be their friend. He said he would sooner part with all his prisoners than Lady Sale, for "she was the only hold he had upon her devil of a husband!"

A few days later the Queen and Prince Albert went on a visit to the Duke of Wellington at Strathfieldsaye. The visit was made as private as possible, and the Duke's efforts to secure this were of a somewhat amusing character. To a newspaper representative, who applied for the facilities usually accorded on such occasions, the Duke wrote; "Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Mr. —, and begs to say that he does not see what his house at Strathfieldsaye has to do with the public press." The Duke also caused a notice to be conspicuously posted in his grounds, desiring those who wished to see the house to drive up to the hall-door and ring the bell.

The Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Lords of the Admiralty, inspected the Experimental Squadron at Spithead on the 21st of June. It was a splendid spectacle to see the noble vessels as they got under way. The war-ships off Spithead at this time had a total of 926 guns, 26,208 tons; being 6,412 tons more than the fleet amounted to with which

England won the battle of the Nile. After the evolutions, the Queen passed through the squadron on her return to Cowes, much gratified by the display she had witnessed.

There was a very affectionate parting between the old and the young monarch, after which the Queen's yacht stood for England. On the 10th her Majesty and the Prince reached their home at Osborne, where a joyous welcome awaited them.

The ensuing winter of 1845-6 was a disastrous one in some respects in our domestic history. In England the railway mania had hurried many into ruin, while in Ireland there was fearful destitution through the failure of the potato crop. The settlement of the great corn-law question was seen to be imperative towards the close of 1845, and Sir Robert Peel resigned office in order that Lord John Russell and the Whigs might come in and grapple with this long-vexed question. Lord John was unable to form a Ministry, however, and on the 5th of December Sir Robert Peel returned to power. He courageously resolved to abolish the corn-laws, and although by doing so he incurred great odium with his party, the country generally acknowledged with gratitude his great and disinterested services. The obnoxious corn laws were swept away, and Peel's action was more than justified by subsequent events.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

DURING the thick of the political conflict the Queen gave birth at Buckingham Palace, on the 25th of May, 1846, to her third daughter, Princess Helena, afterwards Princess Christian.

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H.R.H. PRINCESS HELENA.

In the closing days of June the Government was defeated on its Irish Coercion Bill, a measure to check assassination in Ireland, and on the 6th of July, the Prime Minister resigned office. The Queen felt the parting with Peel and Lord Aberdeen most keenly. Writing to King Leopold on the 7th she said : "Yesterday was a very hard day for me. I had to part from Sir Robert Peel and Lord Aberdeen, who are irreparable losses to us and to the country. They were both so much overcome that it quite upset me. We have in them two devoted friends : we felt so safe with them. Never during the five years that they were with me did they ever recommend a person or a thing that was not for my or the country's best ; and never for the party's advantage *or* *ty*. . . I cannot tell you how sad I am to lose Aberdeen ; you cannot think what a delightful companion he was. The breaking-up of all this intercourse during our journeys is deplorable." But the Queen had still one person on whose counsel she could rely, and one far dearer to her than her Ministers. "Albert's use to me, and I may say to the country, by his firmness and sagacity in these moments of trial, is beyond all belief."

The infant Princess was christened at Buckingham Palace on the 25th of July in the names of "Helena Augusta Victoria."

Her Majesty and Prince Albert visited the Queen Dowager at Cashiobury on the 19th of September and spent a few days with her in strict privacy. They then proceeded to Hatfield House, the seat of the Marquis of Salisbury, being met on the road by the Marquis, the Duke of Wellington, and other noblemen and gentlemen, who formed an equestrian escort. Amongst the guests invited to receive the Queen

were Lord John Russell, Lord Melbourne—who seems now to have quite fallen out of the Queen's life—and Lord and Lady Beauvale. At Hatfield the Queen was much interested in examining the famous Cecil papers. She found also much pleasure in outdoor recreation, visiting the vineyard, and the celebrated oak under which Queen Elizabeth was found sitting when she received the news of her accession. On the 1st of December, the Queen and the Prince Consort visited the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel Castle. Besides being the Premier of the nobility and hereditary Earl Marshal, his Grace now filled the political office of Master of the Horse. Elaborate preparations were made to receive the royal guests, while in the evening the Keep was brilliantly illuminated, and the whole town became one blaze of light. A sumptuous dinner was given to every poor person in Arundel. On the following day the Queen and Prince Albert each planted a young oak tree in the Small Park. From Arundel the visitors returned to Osborne House to spend Christmas.

The year 1847 opened very gloomily. The commercial depression from which the country had been suffering had been further aggravated.

But the season in London, always inexorable, was not without its gaieties. The theatre saw the re-appearance of Fanny Kemble, whilst at the Italian Opera a new prima donna appeared, concerning whom the Queen thus wrote: "Her acting alone is worth going to see, and the *piano* way she has of singing, Lablache says, is unlike anything he ever heard. He is quite enchanted. There is a purity in her singing and acting which is quite indescribable." The new operatic star which thus suddenly came upon the horizon was that popular favorite, Jenny Lind.

Lord Campbell records an amusing incident which occurred at Court in February of this year: "I had an audience," says his lordship, who was then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, "that her Majesty might prick a sheriff for the county of Lancaster, which she did in proper style, with the bodkin I put into her hand. I then took her pleasure about some Duchy livings and withdrew, forgetting to make her sign the parchment roll. I obtained a second audience, and explained the mistake. While she was signing, Prince Albert said to me: 'Pray, my lord, when did this ceremony of pricking begin?' *Campbell*—'In ancient times, sir, when Sovereigns did not know how to write their names.' *Queen* (as she returned me the roll with her signature): 'But we now show we have been to school.'"

The Queen resolved upon spending the early autumn of 1847 in Scotland. This was partly due to the pleasure derived from her previous visit, and the beneficial effect it had upon her health, and also to the strong desire of the Prince Consort to enjoy the really fine sport of chasing the red-deer in their native forests.

Accordingly, on the 11th of August, her Majesty and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Prince of Leiningen left Osborne in the *Victoria and Albert* yacht, with the *Fairy* as tender. They made first for the Sicily Islands, spending a night there, as the Queen suffered from sea-sickness. This had disappeared next day, and under more favorable weather the royal yacht sailed through the Menai Straits—views of Snowdon and of Carnarvon Castle being obtained—and past the Isle of Man. The yachts, which were accompanied by a fleet of war-vessels,

then steered for the mouth of the Clyde. The *Fairy* took her Majesty up the Clyde as far as Dumbarton. The river was alive with ships and boats of all descriptions; it seemed as if all Glasgow had been suddenly seized with an aquatic fit. The royal party minutely inspected the ancient and celebrated Castle of Dumbarton. In returning, her Majesty steamed past Greenock, and leaving Roseneath on the right, passed on to Loch Long, a splendid lake surrounded by grand hills, and reminding the visitors of Switzerland. At Rothesay they went on board the *Victoria and Albert*. The little Prince of Wales was loudly cheered as Duke of Rothesay. The old castle here was a relic of great interest.

The Queen and Prince had a true Highland reception. The Duke and Duchess of Argyll, the Duchess of Sutherland, Lord Stafford, Lady Caroline Leveson-Gower, and others, were waiting at the landing-place, which was all ornamented with heather. There was also the Celtic Society, with Campbell of Islay. The royal visitors went by a beautiful winding drive to the castle.

In this country abode the Queen enjoyed herself in riding, sketching, fishing, etc. Prince Albert followed exhilarating sport of various kinds with gun and rod, and made pedestrian excursions through the wild scenery adjacent; while the royal children found great delight in outdoor pastimes and in riding ponies. For four weeks this life of enjoyment and of perfect retirement lasted. "The Queen was greatly delighted with the Highlands," wrote Lord Campbell, "in spite of the bad weather, and was accustomed to sally forth for a walk in the midst of a heavy rain, putting a great hood over her bonnet, and showing nothing of her features but her eyes. The

Prince's invariable return to luncheon about two o'clock, in spite of grouse-shooting and deer-stalking, is explained by his voluntary desire to please the Queen, and by the intense hunger which assails him at this hour, when he likes, in German fashion, to make his dinner."

The royal party left Ardverikie on the 17th of September, and embarking on board the yacht, sailed for the south, paying a visit to the Isle of Man, where the Prince landed. Ultimately her Majesty and the Prince, with their children, disembarked at the new port of Fleetwood, and performed the rest of the journey home by rail.

They reached Buckingham Palace on the evening of the 21st. Upon this period of calm and peaceful repose in the Highlands was shortly to supervene one of profound care and anxiety.

The year 1848 was one of great upheaval amongst the States of Europe. France was the first to feel the force of the revolutionary movement. The policy of Louis Philippe, and especially his intrigues with a view to Bourbon aggrandisement, had long rendered the King very unpopular. The public discontent now found vent in revolution, and the dynasty was swept away, and a republic proclaimed.

After Louis Philippe arrived at Claremont, he paid a private visit to the Queen, by whom he was received in the most affectionate and hospitable manner: and this was her attitude towards the whole of the members of the Orleans family.

The effects of the revolutionary spirit were felt in other countries—Italy, Spain, Prussia and Austria; but in Belgium

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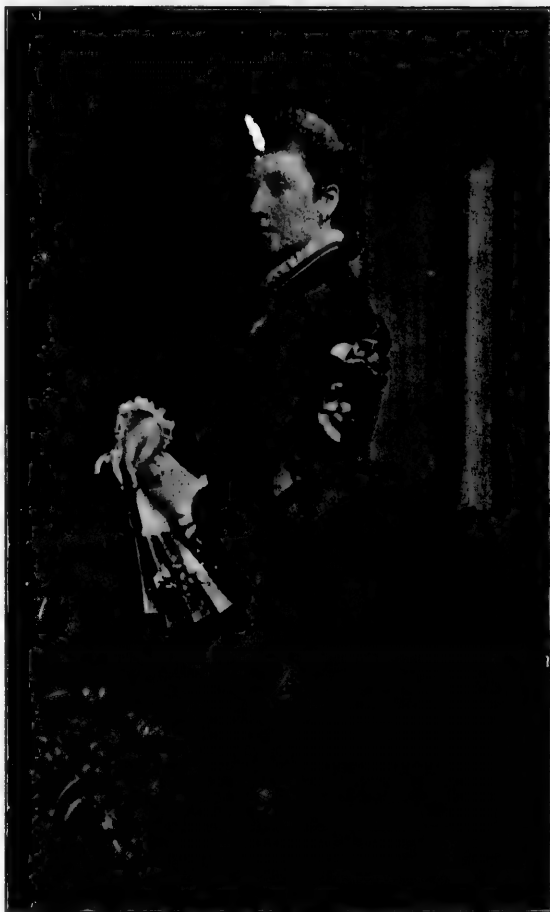
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H. R. H. PRINCESS LOUISE.

the attempts to incite the people against the monarchy proved abortive, and the throne of her Majesty's uncle remained secure. This, however, was not the case with her brother and brother-in-law, the Princes of Leiningen and Hohenlohe, who were compelled to abdicate their seignorial rights.

In the midst of the general solicitude for the peace of England during this time of convulsion the Queen was delivered of her fourth daughter, the Princess Louise. The royal infant was christened at Buckingham Palace on the 13th of May following, receiving the names of Louise Caroline Alberta, the first being the name of the child's grandmother on the father's side, and the last being the feminine form of her father's name. The sponsors were the Duke Augustus of Mecklenberg-Schwerin, the Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen and the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, but all were represented by proxies.

Prince Albert composed, for the occasion, the music to the following chorale :—

“ In life's gay morn, ere sprightly youth
By vice and folly is enslaved,
Oh ! may thy Maker's glorious name
Be on this infant mind engraved.
So shall no shades of sorrow cloud
The sunshine of thy early days,
But happiness, in endless round,
Shall still encompass all thy ways.”

Life and death are ever close together. Only a few days after the birth of the Princess Louise, comes the record of the death of Princess Sophia, the youngest surviving daughter and twelfth child of George III. and Queen Charlotte. She fell, as a shock of corn fully ripe, at the age of seventy-one.

Not long after the birth of her daughter, the Queen—whose thoughts were even then directed to her people—wrote to King Leopold: "I heard all that passed, and my only thoughts and talk were political. But I never was calmer, or quieter, or less nervous. Great events make one calm; it is only trifles that irritate my nerves."

The Queen prorogued Parliament in person on the 5th of September, and on the afternoon of the same day her Majesty and the Prince Consort, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal and Prince Alfred, embarked in the royal yacht at Woolwich for Scotland. Their destination on this occasion was Balmoral Castle, which, on the recommendation of Sir. James Clark, Prince Albert had leased from the Earl of Aberdeen. The royal squadron entered Aberdeen Harbor on the 7th, and on the following day her Majesty proceeded, amidst the most loyal demonstrations, to Balmoral.

Sport and riding were the order of the day, and on the 16th the Queen ascended Loch-na-Garr on a pony led by Mr. Farquharson's head-keeper, Macdonald. Prince Albert endeavored to stalk a deer, but in vain, and then he would occasionally make a detour after ptarmigan. When her Majesty had nearly reached the top of the mountain, the mist drifted in thick clouds, so as to hide everything not within a hundred yards or so. The ascent was determinedly finished, however; but when the visitors descended, the wind blew a hurricane, and they were almost blinded by the mist. Another day was devoted to a "drive" in the picturesque wood of Balloch Buie, where Prince Albert shot a magnificent stag. The sport was successful, and every one

was delighted, Macdonald and the keepers in particular ; the ormer saying that "it was her Majesty's coming out that had brought the good luck." The Queen was supposed to have "a lucky foot," of which the Highlanders think a great deal.

Parliament was opened by the Queen in person on the 2nd of February, and, in addition to its reference to the continued Irish distress at home, the Royal Speech lamented that a formidable rebellion had broken out in the Punjab. The war proceeded with disastrous consequences, and although the fiercely contested battle of Chillianwallah left the British masters of the field, the Sikhs inflicted terrible losses upon our troops. Sir Charles Napier was sent out, but before he arrived in India Lord Gough had encountered the combined forces of the enemy at Goojerat, and had totally defeated them. The rebellion was suppressed, and the Punjab was annexed to the British possessions in India.

On the 19th of May another dastardly attack was made upon her Majesty. After holding a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace, she went out in an open carriage, with three of her children, to take a drive round the Parks. Shortly before six o'clock the royal carriage had arrived about midway down Constitution Hill on its return, when a man who stood within the railings of the Green Park discharged a pistol in the direction of the Queen. He was immediately seized by the bystanders, and would probably have been the victim of lynch law, had not a park-keeper and a constable interfered and arrested him. The carriage stopped for a moment, but her Majesty, with great coolness and decision, stood up, and motioned the driver to go forward. The

prisoner was brought up and identified as one William Hamilton, of Adare, in the county Limerick. He was a bricklayer's laborer, who for five years past had led a roving life in France and England.

The Queen's long-expected visit to Ireland was paid in August 1849. Her Majesty and Prince Albert, with their four children, embarked at Cowes on the 1st, in the royal yacht, and steered to the westward, convoyed by a squadron of four steamers. They arrived at the Cove of Cork at 10 p.m. on the following day, and came to anchor amidst the booming of artillery and the blaze of a universal illumination on sea and land. Next morning the most deafening cheers hailed her Majesty's first landing on Irish ground. The Queen received a number of addresses, and communicated her royal pleasure that the town of Cove should, in commemoration of its being the spot chosen for her landing, henceforth bear the name of Queenstown.

The royal party re-embarked, and proceeded to Cork amid the enthusiastic shouts of thousands of Irish Celts. A royal progress was made through the city, the Queen being much struck by the noisy but good-natured crowd, and by the

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beauty of the women. The royal squadron next sailed to Waterford, and from there went on to Dublin. As the vessels came into Kingstown Harbor, and the Queen appeared on deck, there was a burst of cheering, renewed again and again, from some 40,000 spectators.

There was a triumphal arch of great size and beauty at the entrance to the city, but it was the human element all along the route which most deeply interested the Queen. "It was a wonderful and stirring scene," she wrote; "such masses of human beings, so enthusiastic, so excited, yet such perfect order maintained. Then the number of troops, the different bands stationed at certain distances, the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, the bursts of welcome that rent the air, all made it a never-to-be-forgotten scene when we reflected how lately the country had been under martial law." Dublin, with its magnificent Sackville Street, was greatly admired by the royal visitors. In the midst of all the shouting and excitement, at the last triumphal arch, a tame dove, with an olive-branch round its neck, was let down into the Queen's lap—an incident which deserves recording to the honor of some poetic Celt.

On the following day, the 7th, the Queen drove into Dublin, and with the Prince Consort, who had followed her on horseback, viewed the various public buildings and institutions, including the Bank, the old Parliament House, and Trinity College.

In the afternoon, her Majesty visited Kilmainhain Hospital, and also went to College Green. Next day there was a full Court and *levée* at the Castle, when congratulatory addresses from the most important bodies in Ireland were presented.

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H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR.

On the 9th there was a grand review in the Phoenix Park, and the day following the Queen and Prince Albert, with Lord and Lady Clarendon, went on a quiet visit to Carton the seat of the Duke of Leinster, "Ireland's only Duke."

The Queen intended to go on to Scotiand from Belfast, but at the time of her proposed departure the wind blew a hurricane, which continued throughout the night, and the whole of the next day, Sunday. Taking advantage of a momentary lull, however, the royal squadron was enabled to make the voyage in the afternoon of the last-named day. After a very tempestuous passage, the royal yacht cast anchor in Loch Ryan, on the western coast of Argyllshire; Prince Albert made a short detour from this point by Loch Lomond, and rejoined her Majesty at Loch Goil, whence they proceeded to Glasgow, where the honor of knighthood was conferred upon the Lord Provost. The Queen and the royal party inspected the fine cathedral of Glasgow, and then departed by rail for Stirling and Perth.

From the latter place the journey to Balmoral was made entirely by the royal carriages, which bore the distinguished visitors through some of the finest of Highland scenery. Balmoral was reached on the 15th. The Queen remained in her Highland home for about six weeks, enjoying, with her husband and children, real privacy. There were fewer servants and attendants upon them than at any other time.

On one occasion her Majesty accompanied the Prince Consort on a distant excursion, and twice slept at a solitary hut on an island on Loch Muich—the lake of darkness or gloom. The Queen was impressed by the stern sublimity of the scenery.

The royal party left Balmoral on the 27th of September, and travelled by way of Edinburgh and Berwick, calling upon Earl Grey at Howick. At Reading they branched off for Gosport, and crossed over from the latter place to Osborne. A few days after reaching their marine residence, the Queen and Prince Albert were much moved on learning of the death of Mr. Anson, the Prince's private secretary and keeper of the Queen's privy purse. These offices were afterwards respectively filled by Colonel Phipps and General Grey.

The new London Coal Exchange was opened on the 20th of October, and the Queen had intended to perform the ceremony in person, but a slight attack of chicken-pox prevented her. Prince Albert took her place, and was accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, who made their first appearance in public on this occasion. The illustrious party went down the Thames in the royal barge, and there was a grand water pageant such as had not been seen for almost a century. When the barge emerged from London Bridge there was a perfect forest of masts in the Upper Pool.

But the Royal family never enjoyed themselves so much as when they went to the Highlands of Scotland. Perhaps you know what it is to roam over the mountains, with the fresh moorland breezes blowing in your face, and to sit down to rest on a bank of springy heather, with nothing round you but wild purple mountains, and miles of grey rock, and heather, and fern?

If so, you will understand why it is that the Queen and her family loved so much to go to Balmoral, their beautiful Highland home. There they saw the red deer skipping over

the hills, and springing up from amongst the ferns ; there they gathered splendid bunches of purple, and pink, and white heather ; there they took their luncheon on the mountains, and would picnic by the side of some lovely mountain loch ; there they climbed over the rocks and forded the streams ; and there they forgot for a time Court manners and Court etiquette, and were able to enjoy themselves, without having a crowd of people looking at them and watching all their movements.

No wonder the Royal children loved Balmoral, no wonder the Queen still delights in her Highland home. Her faithful servant, John Brown, went with the Royal party in all their excursions, and, dressed in his Highland kilt and tartan plaid, he guided the Queen's pony over the rough ground, and took every possible care of his Royal Mistress.

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But all the Queen's time at Balmoral is not spent in parties of pleasure. It has ever been her delight to go and see the poor people living in the cottages and small farms round the Castle. How well they all know her, and how much they love her! She visits them when they are ill, bringing some little present for them in her hand.

Old Kitty Kear was one of the Queen's special favourites; she was an old woman of eighty-six, who lived in a tiny cabin on the mountains and spent her time in spinning on an old-fashioned spinning-wheel.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

HER Majesty's third son and seventh child was born on the 1st of May 1850, and as this was the birthday of the Duke of Wellington, it was determined to give him the same name, Arthur. Writing to Baron Stockmar, the Queen said: "It is a singular thing that this so much wished-for boy should be born on the old Duke's eighty-first birthday. May that, and his beloved father's name, bring the poor little infant happiness and good fortune." The child was christened "Arthur William Patrick Albert." The second name was given after Prince William of Prussia (now the Emperor of Germany), Patrick was in remembrance of the Queen's visit to Ireland, and Albert was chosen after the Prince Consort.

Only a few weeks after the birth of her child, a most cowardly attack was made upon the Queen by one Lieutenant Pate, a man of good family. As her Majesty was leaving Cambridge House, where she had called to inquire

after the Duke of Cambridge, who was seriously ill, Pate darted forward, and struck a blow with a cane at her Majesty's face. The force of the blow was broken by the bonnet, but a severe bruise was inflicted on the Queen's forehead. The perpetrator of this shameful outrage was a dandy, and a conspicuous frequenter of the Parks. No motive was ever assigned for the attack. At Pate's trial, the usual plea of insanity was put forward, but the jury declined to recognize it, and the prisoner was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

In July 1850, the popular Duke of Cambridge died. He was the youngest of the sons of George III. who attained manhood. Prince George, the present Duke, succeeded, and Parliament voted him £12,000 per annum in lieu of the £27,000 which his father enjoyed as the son of a previous Sovereign. Not long after the Duke of Cambridge's death, news arrived of the decease of Louis Philippe, ex-King of the French, in his seventy-seventh year. He had not long survived his reverse of kingly fortune.

Her Majesty and her family visited the North again in the autumn, calling on the way at Castle Howard, the seat of the Earl of Carlisle. From thence she proceeded to the Tyne, where she opened a splendid railway bridge, and she subsequently opened a second one over the Tweed. At Edinburgh, the Queen stayed for one night at Holyrood Palace, where she and the Prince, and their children, were deeply interested in the memorials and reminiscences of Mary the hapless Queen of Scots. From Arthur's Seat, the royal party viewed the fair city of Edinburgh. On the second day of the visit Prince Albert laid the foundation-stone of the

Scotch National Gallery and made his first speech before an Edinburgh audience, acquitting himself very creditably.

The stay at Balmoral was very pleasant, but it was not without causes of anxiety. The visit of General Haynau, the Austrian woman-whipper, caused great indignation in London, and in connection with a disturbance at Barclay's Brewery during Haynau's visit, Lord Palmerston wrote a despatch which had to be recalled.

The Queen of the Belgians was seriously ill during the stay of her Majesty in the Highlands, and immediately after the return of the Court to Osborne she died, leaving the Queen's uncle Leopold bitterly to lament her loss.

Great sensation was caused in the following winter by the issue of a Papal Bull redistributing the Roman Catholic bishoprics in England, and placing a Cardinal Archbishop at their head. The Pope's policy was strongly resented by the Prime Minister, Lord John Russell, who introduced the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge presented formal protests to the Queen, which her Majesty acknowledged. Like many of the more sober judges of the question, the Queen felt that the Pope could do no harm; he might do what he pleased, but he could never make England Catholic; and this sensible view prevailed throughout the country as the momentary excitement passed away.

Lady Lyttelton, who had been governess to the royal children for eight years, retired from that post in January, 1851. She was the daughter of the second Earl Spencer, and married at twenty-six the third Lord Lyttelton. At

the time of her retirement from the Queen's service she was fifty-four, and she desired to spend the remainder of her life in rest.

OPENING OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

THE inaugural ceremony took place on the 1st of May, and it is almost superfluous to say that it was a most imposing sight. The Queen and Prince Albert and all the royal family, as well as the Duchess of Kent and the young Count Gleichen, were present. The Park presented a wonderful spectacle, and the scene in the streets recalled that of the Coronation Day. The Queen wrote a graphic account of the ceremony in her diary, and as it takes us below the surface, and exhibits the inner emotions of her Majesty, as well as the main features of the ceremonial on this great day, I shall make extracts from her account in preference to those given in the daily journals. The following are the chief passages in the Sovereign's description :—

“ At half-past eleven the whole procession in State carriages was in motion. The Green Park and Hyde Park were one densely crowded mass of human beings, in the highest good humor and most enthusiastic. I never saw Hyde Park look as it did, as far as the eye could reach. A little rain fell just as we started, but before we came near the Crystal Palace, the sun shone and gleamed upon the gigantic edifice, upon which the flags of all nations were floating. We drove up Rotten Row, and got out at the entrance on that side.

“ Albert left my side after ‘God save the Queen’ had been sung, and at the head of the Commissioners—a curious

assemblage of political and distinguished men—read me the report, which is a long one, and to which I read a short answer. After this the Archbishop of Canterbury offered up a short and appropriate prayer, followed by the 'Hallelujah Chorus,' during which a Chinese mandarin came forward and made his obeisance. This concluded, the procession began. It was beautifully arranged, and of great length—the prescribed order being exactly adhered to. The nave was full, which had not been intended; but still there was no difficulty, and the whole long walk from one end to the other was made in the midst of continued and deafening cheers and waving of handkerchiefs. Every one's face was bright and smiling, many with tears in their eyes. Many Frenchmen called out, '*Vive la Reine!*' One could of course see nothing but what was here in the nave, and nothing in the courts. The organs were but little heard, but the military band at one end had a very fine effect as we passed along. They played the march from *Athalie*. The beautiful Amazon in bronze, by Kiss, looked very magnificent. The old Duke and Lord Anglesey walked arm-in-arm, which was a touching sight. I saw many acquaintances amongst those present.

Lord John Russell congratulated the Queen upon the triumphant success of the day's proceedings. All the arrangements had been most perfectly carried out. In addition to 25,000 people within the building, it was calculated that nearly 700,000 people were assembled on the route between it and Buckingham Palace; yet the Home Secretary was able to report to her Majesty next day that there had not been one accident or one police case due to this

assemblage. Such a circumstance was probably unexampled in the history of great popular celebrations. Well might the Queen assert that this Exhibition of 1851 would contribute to give imperishable fame to Prince Albert, while the day of its opening, the 1st of May, would ever remain "the proudest and happiest of her happy life!"

The Queen and the Prince Consort entered into other enjoyments at this time. They heard Rachel in *Andromaque*, were present when Macready took leave of the stage, and attended a performance at Devonshire House on behalf of the newly formed Guild of Literature and Art, when Charles Dickens, Douglas Jerrold, John Forster, and others, appeared in *Not so Bad as We Seem*. The Prince was also very prominent in charitable and scientific enterprises, and manifested a deep interest in the British Association.

A grand fancy ball was given by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on the 13th of June. All the characters and costumes were drawn from the Restoration period. Her Majesty and the Prince were superbly dressed. Four national quadrilles—English, Scotch, French, and Spanish—were danced; and subsequently there was a "Rose" quadrille. The great hall in which the ball took place was

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splendidly fitted up. There was a striking array of banners emblazoned with the arms of the nations and cities represented at the Palace in Hyde Park, while the compartments beneath the balconies were filled with pictorial representations of the finest and most striking contributions in the Exhibition.

After the dancing, supper was served in the crypt, which was made to represent an old baronial hall. On leaving, her Majesty thanked Lord Mayor Musgrove for his hospitality, and announced her intention of creating him a baronet. Prince Albert told Baron Stockmar that this City ball passed off most brilliantly, and that a million of people remained till three in the morning in the streets, and cheered her Majesty on her return with great enthusiasm.

On the 27th of August the Queen, Prince Albert and several of the royal children, left London for Balmoral, travelling for the first time by the Great Northern Railway. A halt was made at Peterborough, where her Majesty had a kindly interview with the venerable Bishop, Dr. Davys, who had been the tutor of her childhood. Boston, Lincoln, and Doncaster were next visited, the royal party stopping for a night at the last-named town, selecting the Angel Inn for their resting-place. Going on next day to Edinburgh, her Majesty and the Prince drove through the city, and remained for the night in the State apartments of Holyrood Palace. The honor of knighthood was conferred on the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Her Majesty returned to Worsley Hall, and next day the royal travellers journeyed to Watford, where they took carriages to Windsor.

The Queen paid a farewell visit to the Exhibition on the 14th of October, and shortly afterwards it was dismantled. During the five and a half months it had remained open, the visitors had been 6,200,000, and the total receipts £500,000.

Several events of moment occurred before the close of the year. In November the King of Hanover died. He was the fifth and last surviving son of George III. and Queen Charlotte, and as Duke of Cumberland he had been anything but popular. Louis Kossuth came over to England in the autumn of 1851, and created intense interest and excitement. But the most startling incident of all this year occurred on the 2nd of December, the fatal day which witnessed the *coup d'état* of Louis Napoleon. By the aid of the army, the ambitious Bonaparte ruthlessly violated the rights of the people, laying the foundation of his power in bloodshed and despotism. A good deal of ill-feeling resulted between England and France, but all fears of French aggression ultimately died out.

While her Majesty was staying at Osborne in the summer she received news of the death of Count Mensdorff, who had married the sister of the Duchess of Kent, and was consequently uncle by marriage both to the Queen and Prince Albert. Princess Hohenlohe came over on a visit at this time; she was in great distress and anguish, having just lost her eldest daughter from consumption.

In July the Queen and Prince Albert made a marine excursion along the Devonshire coast, and in the ensuing month they went over to Brussels on a brief visit to King

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H.R.H. PRINCE LEOPOLD.

Leopold. Shortly after their return, her Majesty received intimation that a large legacy had been bequeathed to her absolutely by an eccentric barrister of Lincoln's Inn, named John Camden Nield. The testator had inherited a large fortune from his father, which he had greatly increased by his penurious habits. Mr. Nield's personalty was sworn under £250,000.

DUKE OF ALBANY.

ON the 19th of March, 1853, a disastrous fire broke out in Windsor Castle, which at one time placed that magnificent structure and the whole of its contents in jeopardy. Fortunately, the flames were subdued and the injury was confined to the ceilings of the dining-room in the Prince of Wales's Tower, and two floors of bedrooms immediately over it, which were practically destroyed. The fire was supposed to have originated from the heating of the flues. The Court was at Windsor at the time, and the Queen, in writing upon the fire to the King of the Belgians, said: "Though I was not alarmed it was a serious affair, and an acquaintance with what a fire is and with its necessary accompaniments, does not pass from one's mind without leaving a deep impression. For some time it was very obstinate, and no one could tell whether it would spread or not. Thank God, no lives were lost." The principal treasures in the State rooms were removed in safety on the announcement of the outbreak.

The eighth child of her Majesty, and her fourth son, was born at Buckingham Palace on the 7th of April, 1853. He was named Leopold George Duncan Albert, the first name being after King Leopold, the second after the King of

Hanover, and the fourth after Prince Albert. The third name was a compliment to Scotland.

When the young Prince arrived at manhood it was arranged to retain this popular name of Leopold by styling his Royal Highness "Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany."

On the 21st of June there was a splendid military spectacle at Chobham, when a sham fight and a series of military manœuvres were carried out before the Queen and Prince Albert, the King and Queen of Hanover, and the Duke and Duchess of Coburg, then on a visit to the English Court. Queen Victoria excited great admiration as she rode down the lines, dressed in a half-military riding-habit, and mounted on a splendid ebony steed.

That royalty is subject to the ordinary ills of humanity was proved early in July, when various members of the Queen's family were attacked with measles. The Prince of Wales was the first sufferer, but he was quickly convalescent ; Prince Albert suffered more virulently ; the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice took the infection mildly, and the Queen also suffered from a very mild attack of the disorder. All happily recovered without any serious consequences ; but the disease was subsequently conveyed by the Queen's visitors to the Courts of Hanover and Belgium.

Her Majesty held a grand naval review at Spithead on the 11th of August, and there were present with her as spectators the Prince of Prussia, the Crown Prince and Princess of Württemberg, and three Russian archduchesses. The sight was splendid, as the noblest vessels in the British fleet passed majestically along, and afterwards engaged in mimic warfare.

Writing to Baron Stockmar, the Prince said : "One word more about the credulity of the public. You will scarcely credit that my being committed to the Tower was believed all over the country—nay, even 'that the Queen had been arrested.' People surrounded the Tower in thousands to see us brought to it.....It was anything but pleasant to me that so many people could look upon me 'as a rogue and traitor,' and I shall not be at ease until I see the debate in Parliament well over ; for it is not enough that these rumors should be dispelled for the time—they must be knocked on the head, and the disease radically cured. Then, what has occurred may be of the greatest service for the future." The Queen wrote to Lord Aberdeen : "In attacking the Prince, who is one and the same with the Queen herself, the Throne is assailed, and she must say she little expected that any portion of her subjects would thus requite the unceasing labors of the Prince." In January 1854, when Parliament met, the calumnies against the Prince were completely refuted by Lord Aberdeen in the House of Lords, and Lord John Russell in the House of Commons. Lord Campbell, Lord Derby, and Mr. Walpole, all high constitutional authorities, vindicated the right of the Prince to support the Sovereign by his advice in all matters of State.

Her Majesty heartily rejoiced when the clouds lifted, and a letter she wrote to Baron Stockmar, on the anniversary of her marriage, showed the strength of her womanly feelings. "This blessed day," she observed, "is full of joyful, tender emotions. Fourteen happy and blessed years have passed, and I confidently trust many more will, and find us in old age as we are now—happy and devotedly united. Trials we

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must have ; but what are they if we are together ?" A family masque was performed on this occasion, in which all the royal children took part. At one point in the proceedings the Princess Helena appeared as Britannia, and pronounced a blessing on the Queen and Prince, in the name of all the Seasons, which had been represented respectively by the Princess Alice, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and the Prince of Wales.

Not long after this peaceful scene, war was declared against Russia, and on a cold March morning a painfully interesting incident was witnessed in front of Buckingham Palace, when the Fusiliers marched past, cheering the Queen heartily. Her Majesty was much touched over the farewell to her gallant troops, now setting out for the East. There were many sorrowing friends to bid good-bye to the soldiers. High and low felt the grief of parting, and amongst the former was the Duchess of Cambridge, who bade farewell to her son, lately Commander-in-Chief. Some days later the Queen went to Spithead, to view the magnificent fleet under Sir Charles Napier, before it sailed for the Baltic.

Her Majesty's birthday was this year spent at Osborne, and to commemorate the occasion, the royal children were presented with the Swiss cottage in the grounds, for their own youthful use and behoof. Undeterred by wars and rumors of wars, the young Princes and Princesses enjoyed themselves exceedingly.

One of their great pleasures was a garden of their own, in the beautiful pleasure grounds near Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight.

In front of the Swiss chalet were nine gardens, one for each

of the children, and besides these there were vegetable gardens, greenhouses, hothouses and forcing frames, for the children to attend to for two or three hours a day, under the direction of the gardener. Each of the nine had a set of tools, marked with his or her name.

The gardener was required by Prince Albert to give a daily account of the work of each child, and according to the certificate he gave them, their father paid them the exact market price for their work.

There was also a joiner's workshop in the garden, for the little Princes to learn to work in, and they, with their Father's help, made a beautiful, small fortress, doing all the work, even the making of the bricks for it, themselves.

The Princesses were very busy also, for the lower part of the Swiss chalet was fitted up as a kitchen, with a pantry, closets, dairy, and larder, all as complete as possible.

Here the little girls, in large cooking aprons, learned to make cakes, and all sorts of pastry dishes, to cook the vegetables out of their own gardens, to turn the fruit into jam, and to make different kinds of pickles. What fun they must have had in their little kitchen!

Then sometimes, on a birthday, or some other special day, the children invited the Queen and Prince Albert to come to a little dinner in the Swiss chalet, in which every dish had been cooked by themselves. But generally the food prepared by the little Princesses was given to the poor people, who lived in the cottages round, and thus the Queen taught them, even when they were quite young, to think of, and to care for, others.

The upper floor of the Swiss cottage was made into a

museum, and nearly everything in it had been collected by the children themselves. There were pressed flowers, arranged in botanical order ; different pieces of rocks and fossils to illustrate geology ; there were stuffed birds and animals, besides a number of things made by the children themselves.

THE CRIMEAN WAR.

THE Queen has had many anxious hours in her life ; there have been times when she has felt that to be a Queen means to have to bear a heavy weight of care, quite as much as to have a life of sunshine and prosperity. But I think she can never have been quite so anxious as at the time of the great war of her reign, the Crimean War.

The Queen and Prince Albert took the greatest interest in all the preparations that were made for taking our army to Russia ; they reviewed the troops, they took leave of the Guards, who were about to start for the Crimea, and they threw themselves heart and soul into all the grave anxieties of the nation.

The British soldiers fought bravely, but many thousands were killed in battle, or died of cold and starvation in the Crimea. So much did the Queen feel it, that she became quite ill from sorrow and anxiety. When the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Raglan, paid a flying visit to Windsor, the little Princes and Princesses said to him, "You must hurry back to Sebastopol and take it, or else it will kill Mamma."

The Queen and the Prince visited the wounded soldiers at Chatham on the 3rd of March. During the same month a sale of water-color drawings took place in London for the benefit of the widows and orphans of officers killed in the

Crimea, and a clever and spirited drawing by the Princess Royal, then a girl of fifteen, was sold (amongst other pictures) for a large sum. In April the Emperor and Empress of the French arrived at Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen. By a curious coincidence the Emperor's bedroom was the same which had been occupied on previous occasions by the late Emperor Nicholas and Louis Philippe. Her Majesty has thus recorded the reception of her Imperial guests : " I cannot say what indescribable emotions filled me, how much all seemed like a wonderful dream. These great meetings of Sovereigns, surrounded by very exciting accompaniments, are always very agitating.

" I advanced and embraced the Emperor, who received two salutes on either cheek from me, having first kissed my hand. I next embraced the very gentle, graceful, and evidently very nervous Empress. We presented the Princes (the Duke of Cambridge and the Prince of Leiningen) and our children (Vicky, with very alarmed eyes, making very low curtsies) ; the Emperor embraced Bertie ; and then we went upstairs, Albert leading the Empress, who in the most engaging manner refused to go first, but at length with graceful reluctance did so, the Emperor leading me, expressing his great gratification at being here and seeing me, and admiring Windsor." The " two salutes on either cheek " which her Majesty alludes to, gave great offence to the French Republicans, and to English sympathizers with the Republic, who spoke of Louis Napoleon as " a villain," and " a traitor."

The Queen was delighted with the Empress, finding her full of courage and spirit, yet so gentle, with such innocence and *enjouement*, that the *ensemble* is most charming. With

all her great liveliness, she has the prettiest and most modest manner." Addresses were received, and reviews of troops were held in honor of the Emperor. There was also a grand ball in the Waterloo Room, when the Queen danced a quadrille with her Imperial visitor. She writes that the Emperor danced with great dignity and spirit, and adds: "To think that I, the granddaughter of George III., should dance with the Emperor Napoleon, nephew of England's greatest enemy, now my nearest and most intimate ally, in the Waterloo Room, and this ally only six years ago living in this country in exile, poor and unthought of."

A second Council relating to the Crimean War was held at Windsor on the 20th of April. The Queen was present, and took such a profound interest in public affairs, that she said it was one of the most interesting scenes she was ever present at, and one which she would not have missed for the world. The Emperor and Empress left on the 21st, and the Prince Consort escorted them to Dover. A memorandum written by the Queen showed that she anticipated much, in a political sense, from the Imperial visit.

A touching scene was witnessed on the 21st of May, in front of the Horse Guards, when her Majesty distributed medals to some of the heroes of the war in the East. Many of these gallant soldiers had been sadly injured and mutilated in their country's cause, and some were so weak that they could scarcely stand to receive the medals. Tears of gratification stood in their eyes, that they should receive these honorable distinctions from the Queen's own hands. Some of the officers were wheeled past her Majesty in Bath-chairs, and one of these was young Sir Thomas Troubridge, who had had

both feet carried off in battle, but who insisted on commanding his battery to the end, only desiring his limbs to be raised in order to stop the loss of blood. The Queen leaned over Sir Thomas's chair and handed him his medal, telling him that she appointed him one of her *aides-de camp*; whereupon he replied, "I am amply repaid for everything."

Four of the royal children—Prince Arthur and Prince Leopold, and the Princesses Louise and Alice—were attacked with scarlet fever in the summer. The disease was not very virulent, however, and fortunately did not spread.

On the 18th of August her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess Royal, went over to France on a visit to the Emperor and Empress. Never since the infant Henry VI. was crowned at Paris in 1422, had an English Sovereign been seen in the beautiful French capital. The Queen's visit was therefore a remarkable event, and it was doubly significant as marking the close of the "natural enmity" which for centuries had exasperated two hostile nations.

After two days filled with delightful or imposing scenes, the royal visitors left Paris on the return journey, and proceeded to Boulogne, where—accompanied by the Emperor—her Majesty reviewed the magnificent army encamped on the heights. At nine on the following morning the English Court embarked for Osborne.

Through the Earl of Clarendon, her Minister in attendance, the Queen addressed the following official letter to Sir George Grey expressive of the great pleasure the visit to France had afforded her: "The Queen is profoundly sensible of the kindness with which she has been received by the

Emperor and Empress, and of those manifestations of respect and cordiality on the part of the French nation by which she has everywhere been greeted. On personal and political grounds the visit to Paris has afforded the highest gratification to her Majesty."

One or two incidents during this visit are especially worthy of mention. In the course of a quiet drive which the Queen took with the Emperor, she explained her friendly attitude towards the Orleans family, which it had been said would displease the Emperor.

Lord Granville, Minister in attendance upon her Majesty, received a telegram this day from General Simpson, stating that Sebastopol was in the hands of the Allies. "God be praised for it!" wrote the Queen, who, like the rest, could scarcely realize the good though long-desired news. Guns were fired and bonfires lit, and there was a great scene of excitement in this distant corner of the Highlands.

This visit to Balmoral was also memorable for its happy domestic news. The Prince of Prussia had some time before made a proposal of marriage for the Princess Royal on behalf of his only son, Prince Frederick William, then twenty-four years of age. As the Princess was only fifteen, however, the Queen and her husband resolved that the question should not be forced, that time must be afforded so that the Princess might have an opportunity of knowing more of the Prince, and of seeing whether her affections willingly tended in that direction. Nevertheless, the young wooer came over to Balmoral on a visit, and all-potent Love settled the difficulty, as he has done thousands of times both before and since.

Writing in her diary on the 29th of September, her

Majesty tells briefly the story of the Prince's wooing: "Our dear Victoria was this day engaged to Prince Frederick William of Prussia, who had been on a visit to us since the 14th. He had already spoken to us on the 20th of his wishes; but we were uncertain, on account of her extreme youth, whether he should speak to her himself, or wait till he came back again.

However, we felt it was better he should do so; and during our ride up Craig-na-Ban this afternoon, he picked a piece of white heather (the emblem of "good luck") which he gave to her, and this enabled him to make an allusion to his hopes and wishes as they rode down Glen Gironch which led to this happy conclusion."

Shortly after the return of the Court from Balmoral, the King of Sardinia (our ally in the Crimean War) came to England on a visit to her Majesty, and was splendidly entertained at Windsor. Several addresses were presented to the King during his stay, and he was invested with the Order of the Garter.

On the last day of January 1856, the Queen opened Parliament in person.

The Lords and Commons went in procession to Buckingham Palace to present their addresses to the Queen, and her Majesty subsequently gave a State ball to celebrate the peace. Some days later she laid the foundation-stone of the military hospital at Netley.

The Princess Royal was confirmed in the private chapel, Windsor, on the 20th of March. Two months later, while her affianced bridegroom was on a visit to England, an accident occurred to her Royal Highness which might easily have

proved fatal. When engaged in sealing a letter at a table the Princess saw with horror that the sleeve of her light muslin dress had caught fire. Fortunately, Princess Alice and her sister's governess, Miss Hildyard, were in the room, and they wrapped the hearthrug round the Princess Royal, thus no doubt saving her life. The Princess showed great self-possession, though suffering much pain.

Her arm was burnt from below the elbow to the shoulder, but not so severely as to cause permanent disfiguration. When the accident occurred, she uttered no cry, but she said, "Don't frighten mamma ; send for papa first."

The Queen had several royal visitors this summer. First came King Leopold, always specially welcome, with his younger son and his daughter, Princess Charlotte, and subsequently the Prince and Princess of Prussia.

Balmoral was originally Prince Albert's property, as Osborne was the Queen's. He purchased this Highland estate, and "it was by a bequest in his will that it came, with all its memories, to his widow." Three different monuments to the Prince, on as many elevations above the Castle, at once attract the eye. The highest, which is a conspicuous object from many points of view, is a gable-like cairn, where the tenantry and others assemble on the Prince's birthday to drink to his memory ; the second is a figure of the Prince attended by his greyhound, Enos ; and the third is an obelisk erected by the tenantry and servants to their master.

Balmoral Castle is a reddish-granite structure in the baronial style. Over the principal entrance are the coats-of-arms, and two bas-reliefs which indicate the character of the building. One of these shows a hunting-lodge under the

patronage of St. Hubert, supported by St. Andrew of Scotland and St. George of England, and the other represents groups of men engaged in Highland games.

PRINCESS BEATRICE.

THE Queen's fifth daughter, and last and ninth child, was born at Buckingham Palace, on the 14th of April, 1857. The infant Princess received the names of Beatrice Mary Victoria Feodore. A few days after her birth there was another death in the Royal Family, the Duchess of Gloucester—the last of the children of George III.—passing away in her eighty-third year. The Queen thus wrote of her to her uncle: "Her age, and her being a link with bygone times and generations, as well as her great kindness, amiability, and unselfishness, rendered her more and more dear and precious to us all, and we all looked upon her as a sort of grandmother."

The approaching marriage of the Princess Royal having been announced to Parliament, the House of Commons, in a spirit of liberality which was gratifying to her Majesty, voted an annuity of £8,000 to the Princess, and a dowry of £40,000.

Amongst the visitors to Osborne in the summer were the Archduke Constantine, Admiral-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, and the young Archduke Maximilian of Austria—the destined husband of the Queen's cousin, Princess Charlotte of Belgium. Don Pedro of Portugal—whose marriage with the Princess Stephanie of Hohenzollern Prince Albert had been desired to negotiate—also came over to England; and Prince Frederick William too spent some time in wooing at Osborne.

Prince Albert opened the Fine Art Exhibition at Manchester in May; and on the 25th of the following month the Queen formally conferred upon him, by letters patent, the title of "Prince Consort." It was deemed advisable to take this step in order to ensure the due recognition of the Prince's rank at foreign Courts.

An interesting spectacle was witnessed in Hyde Park on the twenty-sixth of June, when her Majesty made the first distribution of that much-coveted distinction, the Victoria Cross, or Cross of Valor. There was a vast concourse of spectators, who cheered lustily as the Queen rode up to the place appointed for the ceremony. The "mighty men of valor" were called up one by one (to the number of sixty-two), and the Queen, with that singular air of majesty and grace which sits upon her so naturally on all occasions of State, pinned the cross upon each man's breast with her own hands. The Prince Consort saluted the recipient with a courteous gesture, and he retired a proud and happy man. As each brave man withdrew from the Queen's side, the spectators saluted him with clapping of hands and loud cheers. The Victoria Cross is in the form of a Maltese cross, formed from the cannon captured at Sebastopol. The riband is blue for the Navy and red for the Army. The royal crown is in the centre of the cross surmounted by the lion. On the clasp are two branches of laurel, and from it the cross hangs, supported by the initial "V." The decoration carries with it a pension of £10 per annum.

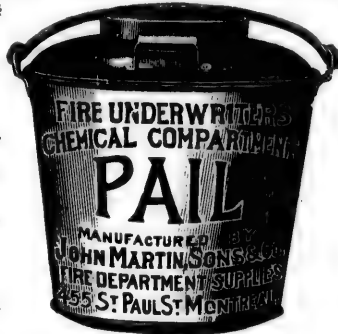
The Queen and the Prince Consort, with their four elder children and Prince Frederick William of Prussia, paid a visit to Manchester in July.

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H.R.H PRINCESS BEATRICE.

On the 25th of January 1858, the Princess Royal was married to Prince Frederick William of Prussia, now the Crown Prince of Germany. For days before, the ceremony had been the common topic of conversation in society. The Princess was very popular, and the many splendid gifts she received were some slight evidence of this popularity. Several interesting and touching incidents are recorded in connection with the marriage. Before the service on the Sunday preceding, the Princess Royal gave the Queen a brooch with the Princess's hair, clasping her mother in her arms as she did so, and telling her that she hoped to prove worthy to be her child. Her Majesty felt the approaching parting with her daughter very deeply. She has recorded her feelings on the morning of the wedding, when she felt more nervous even than her child, for she was now solicitous for another, and had not "that blessed feeling, elevating and supporting, of giving herself up for life to him whom she loved and worshipped--then and ever." This thought had sustained her on her own wedding day. Just previous to setting out for the ceremony, a daguerreotype was taken of the family group, father, mother, and daughter, but the Queen trembled so that her own likeness came out very indistinctly.

The marriage was celebrated in the Chapel Royal of St. James's, and all the members of the Royal Family were present, besides many other illustrious and noble guests. Her Majesty wore a train of lilac velvet, with petticoat of lilac and silver moir antique, and a flounce of Honiton lace; corsage ornamented with diamonds, the Koh-i-noor as a brooch; head dress, a magnificent diadem of diamonds and pearls. The Prince Consort and King Leopold were in field-marshal's uniforms; the Prince of Wales and the other

Oculists' Prescriptions correctly filled.

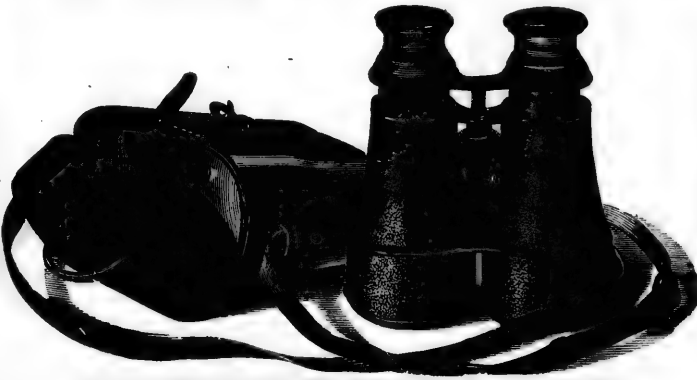
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BELL TEL. 2571.

Princes in Highland costumes ; and the Princesses Alice, Helena, and Louise—who went hand-in-hand behind their mother in the procession—wore white lace over pink satin, with daisies and blue cornflowers in their hair. The bridegroom, who looked very soldiery and stately, was in the blue uniform of a Prussian General. When he appeared in the chapel he bowed low to the Queen and to his mother. The bride came into the chapel walking between her father and King Leopold, the latter being both her godfather and grand-uncle. She wore a white dress of moire and Honiton lace, with wreaths of orange and myrtle blossoms. Her train was borne by eight bridesmaids, the unmarried daughters of dukes, marquises, and earls, and the very flower of English beauty and nobility. Their names were as follows :—Lady Susan Pelham Clinton, Lady Emma Stanley, Lady Susan Murray, Lady Victoria Noel, Lady Cecilia Gordon Lennox, Lady Catherine Hamilton, Lady Constance Villiers, and Lady Cecilia Molyneux. The bridesmaids were in white tulle, with wreaths and bouquets of pink roses and white heather.

The *Annual Register* states that as the Princess advanced to the altar she paused, and made a deep reverence to her mother, the paleness of her face flushing to a deep crimson the while. A similar observance was made to the Prince of Prussia. The bridegroom then came forward, and, dropping on one knee, took her hand and pressed it with an expression of fervent love and admiration. The marriage ceremony was performed by his Grace of Canterbury.

The year 1858 was a busy one for the Sovereign. In the month following her daughter's marriage the Palmerston

Government went out of office on the Conspiracy Bill, and Lord Derby became Premier, though he had only a short lease of power. In May the Prince Consort went over to Germany for a brief visit, and in June he accompanied the Queen to Stoneleigh Abbey, the seat of Lord Leigh. Her Majesty visited Birmingham, and also opened the People's Museum and Park at Aston. The royal party stayed for a night at Aston Hall, and the Queen had for her boudoir the room in which Charles I. slept when his army was on its way from Shrewsbury to relieve Banbury Castle. Warwick Castle was visited next day, in the evening of which the Court returned to London.

Early in August, her Majesty and the Prince Consort, with the Prince of Wales, visited the Emperor of the French on the occasion of the inauguration of Cherbourg. The Queen received "such a salute from the ships and fortress itself as seemed to shake earth and sky." The Emperor and Empress visited the Queen and Prince on board the royal yacht, and after they had gone, her Majesty went below and occupied herself in reading, nearly finishing "that most interesting book *Jane Eyre*." Next day the royal party landed and drove through the town. In the evening there was a State dinner on board the French ship *Bretagne*. As the relations between England and France were not quite so cordial as they had been, her Majesty was a little nervous as to the possible character of the speech, but in proposing the "Health of his Illustrious Visitors," the Emperor declared his adherence to the French alliance with England. Next day the Queen and Prince returned to Osborne in time to dine with their other children. After dinner they danced a merry country dance with them on the terrace.

A few days later her Majesty and the Prince Consort crossed over to Antwerp in the royal yacht, and proceeded to pay a visit to their daughter in her German home. During a halt at Dusseldorf, Prince Albert received a telegram announcing the death of his faithful valet, Cart, who had accompanied him to England, and been in his service since the Prince was a child of eight. It was a severe blow to the Prince and his wife. "All day long the tears would rush into my eyes," wrote her Majesty; "he was the only link my loved one had about him which connected him with his childhood, the only one with whom he could talk over old times."

But the happy meeting with her child modified this grief. Next day, on the arrival of the royal party at the Wildpark Station, near Magdeburg, they found the Princess waiting for them on the platform with a nosegay in her hand. She stepped into the carriage, and the Queen says: "Long and warm was the embrace as she clasped me in her arms; so much to say and to tell, and to ask, yet so unaltered; looking well, quite the old Vicky still. It was a happy moment, for which I thank God!" Her Majesty stayed at the Palace of Babelsburg during her visit, which extended over fourteen days.

Many domestic events occurred during the year of 1860. The Prince of Wales went out to Canada, and had a most successful progress through the Dominion, with a visit to the American President at Washington.

The Prince of Wales first stepped upon American soil at St. John's, Newfoundland, July 24, 1860. He had sailed into the little harbor the night before, on board the British frigate

"Hero," escorted by the warship "Ariadne." The morning was rainy, but just as the Prince landed the sunshine burst through the clouds, and the crowd of officials and fisher folk that awaited him exchanged congratulations upon the happy omen and "the Queen's weather." The bands on ship and shore played "God Save the Queen," the men-of-war of England, France and the United States fired salutes and manned the yards. The first remark that the Prince made was: "The English and American sailors stand like statues, but those Frenchmen look like farmers." Sir Alexander Bannerman, the Governor of Newfoundland, was formally presented to the Prince, and the party proceeded directly to the Government House, where a reception was held, and the dignitaries and various societies of the city read loyal addresses. In the evening a ball was given, and the Prince soon left the official circle and danced with the wives and daughters of the fishermen. The "Lancers" was a new dance then, and the Prince not only explained the figures to his partner but called out to the other dancers: "Now, you follow me," "Now, forward-march." Of course, he won all hearts. The next day he was taken through the factories in which cod-liver oil is made. There is a custom that a visitor to the factories must have his boots greased by the employees and "pay his footing" in drink money, and the Prince cheerfully submitted to these exactions, and laughed heartily. The Royal party then reembarked on the "Hero" and set sail for Halifax.

I give these proceedings in detail because they epitomize the principal features of the Prince's tour through the British provinces. It always rained, there were always processions, receptions, addresses and balls, and the Prince became so

tired of hearing "God Save the Queen" that he used to make a grimace when a new band struck up the familiar tune. He was at that time a slender stripling, under the medium size, not yet of age, and bore a remarkable resemblance to the portraits of the Queen, his mother, on the British coins. He had been sent by the Palmerston Government to see the New World and stir up Canadian loyalty, while his brother, the Duke of Edinburgh, was dispatched to Africa on a similar mission. To avoid problems of etiquette he travelled as Baron Renfrew, which is one of his many minor titles. His official dress throughout the tour was that of a British Major-General.

At first the American people did not realize the importance of the Prince's visit. There was no Atlantic cable then to keep the two hemispheres in close touch.

THE ROYAL PARTY IN MONTREAL.

THE Royal party arrived there on the August 25, and the Prince opened the new Crystal Palace and inaugurated the Victoria Bridge, held a review of the troops and attended the Indian games. Patti, then a girlish phenomenon, had been brought on from New York to sing at a grand concert but the Prince would not stop to hear her, and she shed childish tears over the disappointment.

There was a ball, of course, and the band sang some of the music for the Prince's favorite "Lanciers." This delighted him; he joined in the singing, and all the company followed his example with extraordinary vocal effects. At Sherbrooke then a village near Montreal, the Prince remitted the sentence of a court-martial upon an old man named Felton, who had

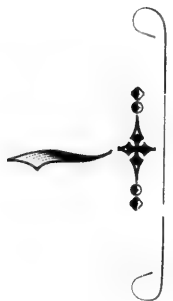
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served with Nelson, on the "Trafalgar," and restored him to his rank in the service as Signal Midshipman. This was a very politic act that broadened and deepened the popularity of the Prince. His Royal Highness then went by special train to Ottawa and laid the corner-stone of the Parliament buildings. He saw the log men roll huge trunks of trees down the river chutes, and he drove about the town and the adjacent country. Ottawa was then a Capital city in name only, and his sojourn there was brief and uneventful.

The Catholics had gained a little victory over the stern Duke of Newcastle at Quebec, and now the Orangemen demanded to be allowed to present addresses to the Prince, and to be received separately from their Catholic fellow-citizens. The Duke consulted with Governor-General Head and refused to permit this distinction. At Kingston an Orange demonstration was prepared and the Royal party did not land from the steamer. The Orangemen chartered another steamer and pursued the Prince to Brockton, but again he was not allowed to go on shore. At Coburg a party of fifty Canadian gentlemen took the horses from his carriage and drew him through the pretty hamlet. At Toronto the Mayor apologized for the display of Orange flags; the Prince was hooted and hissed when he attended church, and serious riots were feared. All trouble was averted, however, by the good humor of the Prince himself. He was taking a drive with the Duke, and the Orangemen hastily hung a banner across the road so that the Royal party had to drive under it. Newcastle was indignant and ordered the coachman to turn back; but lo another Orange banner had been hung to cut off the retreat. Then the Prince laughed heartily, took off his hat to the flag, and was cheered by the Orangemen.

However, the Duke was not mollified, and the journey to Niagara Falls was expedited. The Prince first saw the great falls on September 15. A number of riding horses had been provided by the Canadian Government, and he mounted at once and rode to view the falls from various points. The next day, in the presence of the Royal party and of thousands of other spectators, Blondin performed the remarkable and thrilling feat of crossing the Niagara River on a rope, walking upon stilts and carrying a man on his back.

On September 17 the Prince of Wales entered the United States for the first time, riding to the American side for a farewell view of Niagara. Then, after the usual ceremonies at Hamilton, he crossed to Detroit at night, on September 20, and became the guest of the people of the Republic. The Duke of Newcastle had insisted that the Prince, as Baron Renfrew, should be received by the people, not officially by the Government, and this arrangement was carried out during his tour. It seemed as if all the people, headed by the Governor of Michigan, had rushed to welcome him at Detroit. The crowds were so dense that the Royal party could not get to their hotel through the main streets, and had to be smuggled in at a side entrance. But the sight from the hotel windows

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was beautiful ; the whole city illuminated ; the craft on the river bedecked with lamps, the sky obscured by flags, banners and transparencies. Although the crowd was large and curious it was most friendly and enthusiastic. At Chicago, which was reached two days later, and was then a city of unfinished streets—the sidewalks above the top of the carriage at one point and the carriage above the first floor windows at another—there was a similar crowd. The Prince enjoyed the excitement ; but the fatigue of his long journey began to tell upon him, and it was decided to break the trip from Chicago to St. Louis by stopping at Dwight's Station for a day's shooting.

Dwight's was then a single house on the railroad line in the midst of the prairie. A few miles away two old sportsmen, named Spencer and Morgan, lived on their farms, and with them as guides the Prince's party found plenty of game. Fourteen brace of quails and four rabbits were shot by the Prince. The party tramped about, smoked pipes and had a good time. Only one untoward incident occurred. At a farm the English proprietor stood on his porch and invited everybody except the Duke of Newcastle to enter—"But not you, Newcastle," he shouted : "I have been a tenant of yours, and have sworn that you shall never set foot on my land." But there was no scarcity of other land in the neighborhood and the party passed on.

Presently everybody wanted to smoke and nobody had a light. Pockets were turned inside out, and at last a single match was found. Who should strike it ? Lots were drawn with blades of the prairie grass, and whether by accident or courtiership the choice fell upon the Prince. The others held their coats and hats around him while he lighted the

last match, and he said that he had never been so nervous before. He talked freely with Spencer, and no schoolboy ever enjoyed an outing more.

St. Louis, where the Prince had a splendid reception on the Fair Grounds and opened the Western Academy of Arts, and Cincinnati, where another tremendous crowd awaited him, and he danced all night at another ball, made the Prince glad to get to the comparative quiet of Washington, where he was introduced by Lord Lyons to President Buchanan and Miss Harriet Lane, and was elegantly, but privately, entertained at the White House. Washington was a village "of magnificent distances" then, and the President showed the Royal party over the public buildings without being incommoded by the crowds that had half frightened, half flattered them since their arrival in America.

An historical event was the visit of the Prince of Wales to Mount Vernon and the tomb of Washington. Poets and painters might be inspired by the spectacle of the future King of England standing bareheaded before the resting-place of the Father of the Republic. There were no ceremonials nor speeches; but as the party turned away General Bruce remarked to the Prince: "Washington was an Englishman, you know." What memories, what thoughts, must have moved the distinguished personages who thus paid homage to the first and greatest of Americans.

DEATH OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.

A PROFOUND and melancholy interest attaches to all the details published by Sir Theodore Martin concerning the illness and death of the Prince Consort. Death often

strikes waywardly ; it takes those who desire to live ; and leaves those who are ready to die. But in the case of the Prince the great enemy found him ready ; he was perfectly prepared for the end. It is stated that not long before his fatal illness he said to the Queen : " I do not cling to life. You do ; but I set no store by it. If I knew that those I love were well cared for, I should be quite ready to die to-morrow." It has never been accurately ascertained how the fever under which he sank originated ; but it is strongly surmised that the first predisposing cause was the Prince's visit to Sandhurst on the 22nd of November. He went to inspect the buildings for the new Staff College and Military Academy and as the day was one of incessant rain, he suffered from exposure and fatigue. Next day came news of the distressing death of the young King of Portugal, and other members of his family, from malignant typhoid fever ; and this intelligence weighed heavily upon the Prince's spirits.

On the 24th, which was Sunday, the Prince complained of being full of rheumatic pains, and he wrote in his diary that he had scarcely closed his eyes for the past fortnight.

On Sunday, December 1st, he walked out on the terrace, and attended service in the chapel, and notwithstanding his weakness he insisted upon " going through all the kneeling." Low-fever was next mentioned, and this greatly discomposed her Majesty, especially as she remembered the terrible mortality from this cause in the Portuguese royal family. But in speaking of his own illness, the Prince said that it was not fever, " as that, he felt sure, would be fatal to him." Lord Palmerston, who was not one as a rule to take gloomy views, was so alarmed by what he heard at the Castle,

that he suggested the calling in of another physician. Dr. Jenner and Sir James Clark, however, reassured the Queen with the hope that the fever which was feared might pass off.

There was now nothing left to do but to wait and hope for the best; but unfortunately the Prince lost strength daily, and there would sometimes be "a strange wild look" upon his face. He would smile when his pet child, Princess Beatrice, was brought to him, but his most constant companion was the Princess Alice. The Prince had long resisted the entreaties of the medical men that he should undress and go to bed, and when at length he was prevailed upon to do this it was too late. Fever having unmistakably declared itself, knowledge of the unfavorable change could no longer be kept from the Queen, who was almost broken down by her grief. As she expressed it in her diary, she seemed to be constantly living "in a dreadful dream."

At the Prince's request a piano was brought into the room, and his daughter Alice played two hymns—one of them, "A strong tower is our God." During the playing his eyes were filled with tears.

The day was Sunday, and in a letter written by a member of the Queen's household shortly after the Prince Consort's death, the following touching passages described the events of the day: "The last Sunday Prince Albert passed on earth was a very blessed one for the Princess Alice to look back upon. He was very ill, and very weak, and she spent the afternoon alone with him, while the others were in church. He begged to have his sofa drawn to the window, that he might see the sky and the clouds sailing past. He then asked her to play to him, and she went through several of

his favorite hymns and chorales. After she had played some time she looked round and saw him lying back, his hands folded as if in prayer, and his eyes shut. He lay so long without moving that she thought he had fallen asleep. Presently, he looked up and smiled. She said: "Were you asleep, dear papa?" "Oh, no," he answered, "only I have such sweet thoughts." During his illness his hands were often folded in prayer; and when he did not speak, his serene face showed that the "happy thoughts" were with him to the end.....

The Princess Alice's fortitude has amazed us all. She saw from the first that both her father's and mother's firmness depended on her firmness, and she set herself to the duty. He loved to speak openly of his condition, and had many wishes to express. He loved to hear hymns and prayers.

The sufferer ejaculated in German his last loving words: "Good little wife," kissed her, and with a moaning sigh laid his head upon her shoulder. He dozed and wandered, speaking French sometimes. All his children who were in England came into the room, and one after the other took his hand, Prince Arthur kissing it as he did so, but the Prince made no sign of knowing them. He roused himself, and asked for his private secretary, but again slept. Three of the gentlemen of the household, who had been much about the Prince's person, came up to him and kissed his hand without attracting his attention. All of them were overcome; only she who sat in her place by his side was quiet and still. So long as enough air passed through the laboring lungs, the doctors would not relinquish the last grain of hope. Even when the Queen found the Prince bathed in the death-sweat,



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so near do life and death still run, that the attendant medical man ventured to say it might be an effort of nature to throw off the fever.

But the last hope was at length abandoned. Not long before the end came, the Queen bent over her husband and said in German: "It is your little wife." The dying man recognized the voice, and answered by bowing his head and kissing the Queen. The sands of life were now rapidly running out. The Queen retired into the next room to weep, but she was soon sent for again into the chamber of death. She knelt by her husband's side, holding his hand, their children also kneeling around; while the Queen's nephew, Prince Ernest Leiningen, the gentlemen of the Prince's suite, General Bruce, General Grey, Sir Charles Phipps, the Dean of Windsor, and the Prince's favorite German valet Lohlein, reverently watched for the end. The Prince died at quarter to eleven o'clock, thus passing, in his forty-third year, to "where beyond these voices there is peace."

The great bell of St. Paul's tolled at midnight, spreading the mournful news over the vast city. Early on the following day, which was Sunday, the sad intelligence was flashed by telegraph to all parts of the Empire. In the churches, the omission of the Prince Consort's name from the Litany told many for the first time of the calamity which had fallen upon the nation. There was not a house in the land that was not saddened by the news, while the hearts of all the people went out to the Queen, who was thus made "a widow at forty-two." There had seemed such a long period of married happiness still in store for her; and now all was over. The sorrow which continued to be expressed recalled in its intensity the

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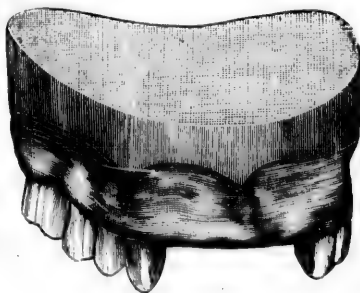
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national mourning for the Princess Charlotte. 'All diversities of social rank and feeling were united in one spontaneous manifestation of sympathy with the widowed Queen and the bereaved family; for the loss of the husband and father was instinctively felt to be as grievous to the most exalted rank as to the humblest. The highest family in the realm had lost, indeed, with scarce a warning or a presentiment of woe, the manly soul, the warm heart, the steady judgment, the fertile mind, the tender voice, and the firm hand, that for twenty-one years had led, and guided, and cheered them through the trials and dangers inseparable from theirs as from every position.

Her Majesty was again and again urged to leave Windsor before the funeral, but she wept bitterly, and said her subjects were never advised to leave their homes or the remains of those lost to them. It was only when the safety of her children was pleaded as a means of giving them immunity from the fever, that she was prevailed upon to leave Windsor and repair to Osborne. Attired in her deep widow's mourning, she set out in the strictest privacy, accompanied only by the Prince of Wales and the Princesses Alice and Helena.

But before going to her desolate house in the Isle of Wight, her Majesty visited Frogmore to choose a site for a mausoleum, where her husband and herself were yet to lie side by side. Leaning on the arm of the Princess Alice, she walked round the gardens, and selected the spot for the ultimate and final reception of the Prince's remains. Then she left for Osborne, in all her sorrow and loneliness.

The funeral took place at Windsor on the 23rd of December. The service was held in St. George's Chapel, where

had assembled the company who had received commands to be present at the ceremony, including the Ministers of the Cabinet, the foreign ambassadors, the officers of the household, and representatives of the nobility and the higher clergy. The Knights of the Garter were in their stalls, and representatives were present of all the foreign States connected by blood or marriage with the late Prince. The chief mourner was the Prince of Wales, who was supported by his brother Arthur, a boy of eleven. Throughout the country there was long and genuine mourning for the "blameless Prince."

THE QUEEN A WIDOW.

NOTWITHSTANDING the cheering sympathy of the Princess of Hohenlohe and the King of the Belgians—who came over to Osborne on a mission of consolation—the daily sense of her loss pressed heavily upon the Queen. "There is no one near me to call me 'Victoria' now!" she is said to have exclaimed on the morning after her bereavement, and this touching expression strongly illustrates her great loneliness. But she did not forget the sorrow of others in her own, and when, within a month of the death of the Prince Consort, the fearful disaster occurred at the Hartley Colliery, by which 204 lives were lost, her Majesty sent a message, to the effect that "her tenderest sympathy is with the poor widows and mothers, and that her own misery only makes her feel the more for them."

In February, the Queen took leave of the Prince of Wales, who went on a lengthened tour in the East, accompanied by Dean Stanley and General Bruce. Gradually the Sovereign

began to evince a renewed interest in State affairs, and the Princess Alice was made the great medium of communication between her and her Ministers. On the 1st of May the International Exhibition was opened, amid much pomp and ceremony. In his Inauguration Ode, the Poet Laureate thus happily recalled Prince Albert's deep interest in these peaceful triumphs of art and commerce—

"O, silent father of our kings to be,
Mourned in this golden hour of jubilee,
For this, for all, we weep our thanks to thee!"

The earliest occasion on which her Majesty attended any State ceremony after the death of the Prince Consort was on the 6th of February 1866, when she opened the first session of her seventh Parliament.

The Queen again came forth from her seclusion in February 1867, when she once more opened Parliament in person. The Reform question was the all-absorbing one occupying the public attention, and before the session closed the Conservative Government succeeded in carrying a measure which provided for a large extension of the suffrage.

The Queen visited the City of London on the 6th of November 1869, for the purpose of opening the new bridge over the Thames at Blackfriars, and the new viaduct over the Fleet Valley from Holborn Hill to Negate Street.

The visit to Balmoral in the autumn of 1870 was marked by a happy incident of another description. On the 3rd of October the Princess Louise became engaged to the Marquis of Lorne, eldest son of the Duke of Argyll.

≡ The year 1871 was a very anxious one for the Queen, as

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during its course another daughter left the parental roof on her marriage, while it closed the life of the Prince of Wales was in imminent danger.

The Queen made many public appearances in 1876. Early in February she opened Parliament in person, and on the 25th of the same month attended a State concert given at the Albert Hall, when she was accompanied by the Princess of Wales, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, and received by the Duke of Edinburgh.

DEATH OF PRINCESS ALICE.

HER Majesty again opened Parliament in person on the 8th of February 1877. The year was comparatively uneventful at home, and in September the Queen visited Loch Maree, staying at the Lock Maree Hotel for a week, and greatly enjoying the magnificent scenery which Ross-shire affords. She made several sketching excursions, and has left a pleasant record of her whole sojourn in her Journal.

The Marquis of Lorne, who had been appointed Governor-General of Canada, sailed for the Dominion in November, 1878, accompanied by the Princess Louise. The heartiest good wishes followed them in their new sphere.

A severe gap was made in the Royal Family in December, 1878, by the death of the lamented Princess Alice. Some time before, diphtheria had broken out in the Darmstadt household, and every member of it was attacked in succession. Princess Marie, who was only four years old, died on the 16th of November. The Princess caught the infection as the result of her devoted attention to others, and from having on

one occasion rested her head, from sheer sorrow, on the Duke's pillow, without having taken the necessary precautions. She made all her preparations in the event of death. Once she was heard to murmur in her sleep, "Four weeks—Marie—my father." On the morning of her death, having just taken some refreshments, she said, "Now I will again sleep quietly for a longer time." These were her last words, as she slept the sleep which knows no earthly waking, passing away on the 14th of December, the seventeenth anniversary of her father's death.

Few princesses have been more warmly beloved than the Princess Alice. The remains of the Princess were interred in the mausoleum at Rosenhöhe, on May 18, the Prince of Wales, Prince Leopold, and Prince Christian being amongst the mourners. A beautiful recumbent figure in white marble of

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the Princess, in which she is represented as clasping her infant daughter to her breast, has been placed near the tomb.

The Queen opened Parliament in person on the 5th of February 1880, and on the ensuing 25th of March left England for Baden-Baden and Darmstadt. She was present at the confirmation of her grand-children, the Princesses Victoria and Elizabeth, daughters of the Duke and the late Duchess of Hesse; and she also visited the grave of their mother at Rosenhohe. Her Majesty in the following September welcomed the Duke of Connaught and his bride at Balmoral, where a cairn had been erected in their honor.

The last month of this year and the early months of 1881 were signalized by three great losses in English literature and politics. George Eliot died in December 1880, Carlyle in February 1881, and the Earl of Beaconsfield in the following April. The Conservative leader was buried at Hughenden, and the Queen and Princess Beatrice visited the funeral vault while it was still open, and placed flowers upon the coffin. At a later period a monument was erected in Hughenden Church to Lord Baconsfield "by his grateful and affectionate sovereign and friend, Victoria R.I. Kings love him that speaketh right (Prov. xvi. 13)."

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF ALBANY.

PRINCE Leopold was created Duke of Albany in June 1881, and took his seat in the House of Lords.

On the 2nd of March 1882, her Majesty, accompanied by

Princess Beatrice, was entering her carriage at Windsor station, on returning from London, when she was fired at by a man named Roger Maclean, who was at once arrested.

The year 1883 was an uneventful one in the life of the Queen as regards public appearances ; but in March her subjects learnt with regret that she had sustained a somewhat severe accident. It appears that while her Majesty was at Windsor Castle she slipped upon some stairs, and falling, sprained her knee.

A month later the *Court Circular* announced that the effects of the sprain were still so severe as to prevent her walking, or even standing for more than a few seconds. Eventually these ill effects passed away, but not until the expiration of a year from the time of the accident.

A great trial befell her Majesty in 1884 by the untoward death of her youngest son, the Duke of Albany.

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The career of this much-esteemed Prince, however, was cut prematurely short. In March 1884 he went to Cannes to avoid the inclement east winds, leaving the Duchess behind him at Claremont. His stay in the south of France proved of considerable service in restoring his health ; but on the 27th of March a fit of apoplexy supervened during the night, however, and at three o'clock on the morning on the 28th he expired in the arms of his equerry, Captain Perceval.

When the fatal news reached Windsor it was gently broken to the Queen by Sir H. Ponsonby. Though almost overwhelmed with her own grief, her Majesty's thoughts turned at once to the young widow at Claremont.

The Prince of Wales went over to France to bear the remains of his brother back to England.

After some months of comparative seclusion the Queen and Princess Beatrice left England on the 31st of March for Aix-les-Bains.

The Queen returned to Windsor on the 2nd of May.

THE ROYAL JUBILEE.

Few pageants in British history could equal in dignity and splendor that by which the Royal Jubilee was commemorated in 1887. Only three Sovereigns have reigned over the Anglo-Saxon race for fifty years and upwards, Edward III., George III., and Victoria. The jubilee of George III., her Majesty's grandfather, was celebrated in 1810, and there were a few survivors from that period who had the felicity of witnessing the Jubilee of our own beloved Sovereign.

Jubilee Day, the 21st of June, was a day ever to be remembered by those who were privileged to be in London, and to witness the magnificent royal progress to Westminster Abbey. The day was observed as a national holiday, and fortunately it was one of perfect sunshine. Houses and streets were profusely decorated, and the demonstrations of loyalty and of personal affection for the Queen were universal. London, west and east, was gaily illuminated on the night of the Jubilee.

At Windsor, on the 22nd of June, her Majesty received the officers and general committee of the Women's Jubilee Offering Fund. This was a fund raised by suscriptions varying in amount from a penny to a pound, contributed by 3,000,000 women of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, as a present to the Queen on her Jubilee. The offering, which amounted to £75,000, was presented, together with a loyal address, which her Majesty graciously acknowledged. On the same occasion, a handsome casket, carved out of Irish bog oak, with a representation of the Irish harp on the cover, was presented to the Queen on behalf of Irishwomen by the Marchioness of Londonderry.

THE QUEEN'S GIFT TO THE POPE.

In December a special mission was despatched by the Queen to the Pope. Its object was to present to his Holiness, as a Jubilee gift from her Majesty, a massive basin and sewer of gold *repoussé* work, copied from originals at Windsor. The basin bore on the central boss, "To his Holiness, Pope Leo XIII., from Victoria, R.I. 1888." A report,

issued by the Deputy Master of the Mint, with regard to the Jubilee coinage, showed that the number of five-pound pieces coined was 53,000, and of two-pound pieces, 90,000; but none of these appeared in general circulation.

The Jubilee celebrations were a tribute at once to the loyalty of the British people and the popularity of the Sovereign. The enthusiasm evoked was heartfelt and sincere, and the whole nation was moved, as by one genuine and spontaneous impulse, to show its gratitude for the many blessings which in God's providence had attended her Majesty's beneficent rule.

SILVER WEDDING OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

THE silver wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales was celebrated on the 10th of March, 1888, with as much display of loyalty as the mourning consequent upon the recent death of the German Emperor, William I., would permit. A deputation from the Corporation of the City of London attended at Marlborough House and presented the Prince and Princess with a silver model of the Imperial Institute. Numerous gifts were also received from other public bodies and private individuals. In the evening a State banquet was given at Marlborough House, at which the Queen was present; and, in returning to Windsor afterwards, Her Majesty drove through the West End to view the illuminations, which were numerous and elaborate.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Queen's coronation fell on the 28th of June, but in consequence of the death of the Emperor Frederick—who was extremely popular in England

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both on his own account and because of the noble way in which he had borne his sufferings—the Court went into mourning, and the projected *fêtes* were either abandoned or postponed.

The year 1892 had scarcely opened before a heavy calamity befell the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the nation, by the death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, the second heir to the Crown. While on a visit to Sandringham, the Duke was attacked on the 9th of January by influenza and pneumonia in a severe form. He had caught a cold at the funeral of Prince Victor of Hohenlohe-Langenberg, another of the numerous victims of the insidious malady which then hung like a pall over the country.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF CLARENCE, SECOND HEIR TO THE CROWN.

IN the case of the Duke of Clarence, inflammation of the lungs supervened at an early stage. All efforts to arrest the complication of disorders proved unavailing, and on the morning of the sixth day after he had been taken ill, he succumbed, never having rallied under the skilful treatment and unremitting care of which he was the object. His death, which occurred on the 14th of January, was only within a few weeks of the date fixed for his marriage with his cousin, the Princess May of Teck.

Her Majesty again visited Florence in the spring of 1894. Accompanied by the Princess Henry of Battenberg, she left Windsor on the 13th of March, and travelled by way of Port Victoria.

On the 24th of May, the Queen's seventy-fifth birthday was celebrated with much rejoicing at home and abroad, and a review of about 11,000 troops was held at Aldershot under the command of the Duke of Connaught.

A fearful disaster which occurred early in February 1895 led to an incident which afforded one more proof of the Queen's sympathetic nature. The North German Lloyd steamship *Elbe* went down at sea off Lowestoft, having on board about 400 souls, nearly all of whom were emigrants. Almost all the passengers were lost, to the number of 335.

DEATH OF PRINCE HENRY OF BATTENBERG.

THE year 1896 opened in gloom as far as British relations with the Transvaal and South Africa generally were concerned. The first news of Prince Henry's illness was received in a Reuter telegram, from Kwis, dated January 10, the message stating that "Prince Henry of Battenberg has had a slight attack of fever, and has gone back to the base in charge of Surgeon-Captain Hilliard."

Within a few days, however, the Court and the nation were plunged in gloom. On the 22nd the sad news arrived that the Prince had died on the night of the 20th, on board the cruiser *Blonde*, which was conveying him from Cape Coast Castle to Madeira. The attack of African fever from which the Prince was suffering had shown no very grave symptoms up to the time when he embarked on Board the *Blonde*, but on the 19th there was a relapse, from which he was too weak to rally. At the time of the Prince's death the cruiser was

not far from Sierra Leone, and she at once put back for that port, whence telegrams were despatched to the Queen at Osborne, to the War Office, and to the Admiralty.

The news was a terrible shock to her Majesty and to the widowed Princess, whose latest previous information as to the state of her husband's health had been favorable. Under the Queen's own sign manual it was announced that she was most deeply afflicted in seeing her beloved daughter's happy life crushed, and in losing a most amiable and affectionate son-in-law, to whom she was much devoted. The Princess Beatrice, thinking of her children, sustained the awful shock with commendable fortitude and resignation.

Prince Henry Maurice of Battenberg, who thus perished untimely, was the third son of Prince Alexander of Hesse—who died in 1888—and his morganatic wife, the beautiful Countess Julie Von Hauke, to whom was granted in 1858 the title of Princess of Battenberg, which her children inherited. He was born in 1858 and educated for the military service. Through his relationship to the Grand Dukes of Hesse, he was brought into close contact with the Court of Queen Victoria, and (as stated in a previous chapter) he was married to the Princess Beatrice in 1885. The title of Royal Highness was conferred upon him, and he was also made a Knight of the Garter, and a Member of the Privy Council, and received the rank of a colonel in the army. He was further appointed Captain-General and Governor of the Isle of Wight, and Governor of Carisbrooke Castle. In the island he was exceedingly popular, and also in London society.

The Prince left four children—Prince Alexander, born in 1886; Princess Victoria Eugénie, born in 1887; Prince Leopold, born in 1889; and Prince Maurice, born in 1891.

A happy and interesting event occurred towards the close of July 1896, when Princess Maud of Wales was married to Prince Charles of Denmark in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace. The bride, who is the youngest child of the Prince and Princess of Wales, was in her twenty-seventh year.

The 23rd of September, 1896, formed a memorable landmark in British history. On that date her Majesty the Queen had reigned more days than any other sovereign of this realm.

A REIGN OF SIXTY YEARS.

The memorable year 1897 has now dawned, in which the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India completes the sixtieth year of her glorious reign. She has now governed longer than any English monarch. Her grandfather, George the Third, only completed fifty-nine years of his reign. She has, therefore, now out-lived by many months the very longest reign in English history.

Here our record of events in her Majesty's life closes. We have seen how, with faith and courage, she has borne sorrow after sorrow, first the loss of the wise and devoted mother, then the ideal consort, then the gifted daughter, then the cherished youngest son, then the husband of Princess Alice, then the second heir to the throne, and finally the life-partner of her youngest daughter. May the evening of the Queen's life be henceforth peaceful and serene!

MEN IN PUBLIC LIFE AND SERVICE WHOM
SHE HAS OUTLIVED.

All members of the Privy Council who were alive in 1837.

All the peers who held their titles in 1837, except the Earl of Darnley, who was 10, and Earl Neilson, who was 14 in that year

All the members who sat in the House of Commons on her accession to the throne, except Mr. Gladstone, Charles Villers, the present Duke of Northumberland, the Earl of Mexborough the Earl of Mansfield and John Temple Leader.


Her Majesty has seen 11 Lord Chancellors, 10 Prime Ministers, 6 Speakers of the House of Commons, at least three bishops of every see, and five or six of many sees, 5 Archbishops of Canterbury and 6 Archbishops of York and 5 commanders-in-chief.

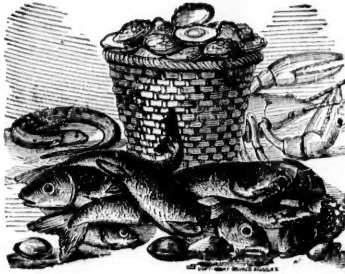
She has seen five Dukes of Norfolk succeed each other as earls marshal, and has outlived every duke and duchess and every marquis and marchioness who bore the rank in 1837.

She has outlived every member of the Jockey Club and every master of fox-hounds that flourished in 1837.

She has seen 17 Presidents of the United States, 10 Viceroy of Canada, 15 Viceroy of India, and France successively ruled by one king, one emperor and six presidents of a republic.—London Public Opinion.

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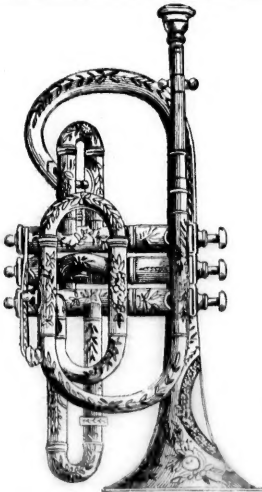


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